

Bill extending unemployment coverage also would extend FUTA surtax through 2010

On September 22, the House of Representatives was expected to consider H.R. 3548, the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2009. The bill was to come to the House floor by way of the House Suspension Calendar. The measure provides for an additional 13 weeks of extended unemployment benefits in states with high unemployment. The bill also would amend the Code to extend from 2009 through 2010 the 6.2% tax on employers under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA)—namely, the 6% permanent tax rate, plus the temporary 0.2% surtax. The repeal of the temporary 0.2% surtax, and the scheduled reduction in the FUTA tax to 6%, would be delayed from 2010 until 2011.