

Members present:

Senator Patricia Jehlen
Representative Josh Cutler
Jon Hurst
Eileen McAnneny
Richard Jeffers
Evan Horowitz
Daina Estime
John Drinkwater
Rich Marlin
Secretary Rosalin Acosta
Vasundhra Sangar (in lieu of Brooke Thompson)
Hannah Tanabe
Christopher Carlozzi
Stephanie Herron Rice
Chris Anderson
Kelsey Cintolo

Staff members present:

Emily Reynolds
Rob Cohen
Matt Hartman
Cole Angley
Lilla Adams

Senator Jehlen called the meeting to order at 1:00PM.

All the members present voted in favor of adopting the previous meeting minutes.

Rep. Cutler introduced Matt Hartman, Emily Reynolds, and Rob Cohen to begin a presentation on the taxable wage base.

Rob Cohen presented on a 50-state overview of the taxable wage base.

- Massachusetts does not have the highest or the lowest TWB, standing at \$15,000. Slightly on the higher side of the 50-State picture
- 14.4% of MA total wages are included in this TWB. This is 25th out of 50 states,
 - And the MA TWB is only 19.4% of the MA avg weekly wage, which is lower than 30 other states.
- 18 states uses some form of indexing

Matt Hartman presented on the history of the Massachusetts taxable wage base.

- The MA TWB has only been changed 3 times in the past 30 years
 - Until 1992, the TWB had been \$7,000, which had been set by Congress in 1983 and linked to Massachusetts in 1977.
- The reasons for changes had been based in trust fund insolvency by tens of millions of dollars. In 2021, the trust fund is insolvent by billions of dollars

Emily Reynolds presented a number of graphs on how the taxable wage base affects different industries in Massachusetts.

Question & Answer period

Further discussion around four specific questions to the commissioners

1. What modes should we use to adjust the TWB?
2. How should the initial TWB be set initially?
3. Are there tools from other states that we could adopt?
4. What questions should we explore pertaining to industry-specific changes to the TWB?

After a short discussion, the meeting adjourned at 2:31PM.