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HEADLINE: Details of **Unemployment** Bill

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BODY:

President Bush signed legislation Wednesday extending the federal emergency **unemployment** program for an additional five months at a cost of \$7.25 billion.

Here are some details and background:

-Most states offer 26 weeks of **unemployment** benefits. Jobless workers who depleted their state benefits last year got an extra 13 weeks of federal benefits that Congress approved.

-That program expired Dec. 28 because Congress couldn't agree to extend it.

-More than 750,000 people in the process of receiving those federal benefits got cut off Dec. 28, before they had received all 13 weeks. Those benefits will be restored.

-In the next few months, 1.6 million people will use up their state benefits. They now can qualify for the extra 13 weeks of federal benefits until June 1.

-About 1 million people have exhausted both state and federal benefits. They won't get any more aid.

-Bush had to sign the bill into law by Thursday to avoid delays in issuing benefit checks.

-Funding for the extension will come from the **unemployment** insurance trust fund, which has cash reserves of about \$24 billion.

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