

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
90th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2015

As Engrossed: H3/6/15
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1489

By: Representatives Jean, *Ballinger, Beck, Bell, Bentley, Boyd, Bragg, Brown, Collins, Cozart, Davis, Deffenbaugh, Della Rosa, Dotson, C. Douglas, D. Douglas, Drown, Eads, Eaves, Eubanks, Farrer, C. Fite, L. Fite, Gonzales, Gossage, M. Gray, Hammer, Harris, K. Hendren, Hickerson, Holcomb, House, Ladyman, Lemons, Lowery, Lundstrum, McNair, D. Meeks, S. Meeks, Neal, Petty, Pitsch, Richmond, Rushing, Scott, Shepherd, Sorvillo, Speaks, Sturch, Sullivan, Tosh, Vaught, Wallace, Wardlaw, Womack*
By: Senators J. Hendren, Hester, *A. Clark*

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND LAWS RELEVANT TO UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS; TO AMEND THE MAXIMUM BENEFIT PERIOD AND WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE SERVICES LAW; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE MAXIMUM BENEFIT PERIOD AND WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE SERVICES LAW.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) The State of Arkansas needs to take steps to increase and ensure the financial stability of the Unemployment Compensation Fund;

(2) Arkansas's unemployment costs to employers as the result of benefit amounts are higher than the surrounding states; and

(3) Adjusting the benefit amounts to be paid to claimants will increase the state's ability to maintain the Unemployment Compensation Fund and to compete in attracting businesses.



SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 11-10-502(a), concerning the weekly benefit amount for purposes of unemployment, is amended to read as follows:

(a) ~~An~~ For initial claims filed on or after the first day of the calendar quarter following the effective date of this act, an insured worker's weekly benefit amount shall be an amount equal to one-twenty-sixth (1/26) of his or her ~~total~~ average wages for insured work paid during the ~~one~~ (1) quarter of his or her base period in which the wages were highest four (4) quarters of his or her base period.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 11-10-504(a), concerning the maximum benefits payable for purposes of unemployment, is amended to read as follows:

(a) ~~The~~ For initial claims filed on or after the first day of the calendar quarter following the effective date of this act, the maximum potential benefits of ~~any~~ an insured worker in a benefit year shall be the amount equal to ~~whichever is~~ the lesser of:

- (1) ~~Twenty-five (25)~~ Twenty (20) times his or her weekly benefit amount; or
- (2) One-third (1/3) of his or her wages for insured work in his or her base period.

/s/Jean