

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

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1731

By: Representatives Jett, Cavanaugh

By: Senator B. Johnson

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND LAWS RELEVANT TO UNEMPLOYMENT
BENEFITS; TO PROVIDE AMENDED UNEMPLOYMENT
CALCULATIONS AND BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL
AND CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYEES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO PROVIDE AMENDED UNEMPLOYMENT
CALCULATIONS AND BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN
AGRICULTURAL AND CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYEES.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 11-10-502(a), concerning the weekly benefit amount for purposes of unemployment, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) ~~For~~ Except as provided for under subdivision (a)(2) of this section, for initial claims filed on or after the first day of the calendar quarter following July 22, 2015, an insured worker's weekly benefit amount shall be an amount equal to one-twenty-sixth (1/26) of his or her average wages for insured work paid during the four (4) quarters of his or her base period.

(2) For an insured agricultural employee or for an insured construction employee who files an initial claim on or after the first day of the calendar quarter following the effective date of this act, the weekly benefit amount shall be an amount equal to one-twenty-sixth (1/26) of his or her total wages for insured work paid during the one (1) quarter of his or her base period in which the wages were highest.



SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 11-10-504(a), concerning the maximum benefits payable for purposes of unemployment, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) ~~For~~ Except as provided for under subdivision (a)(2) of this section, for initial claims filed on or after the first day of the calendar quarter following July 22, 2015, the maximum potential benefits of an insured worker in a benefit year shall be the amount equal to the lesser of:

~~(1)(A)~~ Twenty (20) times his or her weekly benefit amount;

or

~~(2)(B)~~ One-third (1/3) of his or her wages for insured work in his or her base period.

(2) For an insured agricultural employee or for an insured construction employee who files an initial claim on or after the first day of the calendar quarter following the effective date of this act, the maximum potential benefits in a benefit year shall be the amount equal to the lesser of:

(A) Twenty-five (25) times his or her weekly benefit amount; or

(B) One-third (1/3) of his or her wages for insured work in his or her base period.