

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

House Bill No. 183 by Representative Brown

June 10, 2021

To the Honorable Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives and the Honorable President and Members of the Senate.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We, the conferees appointed to confer over the disagreement between the two houses concerning House Bill No. 183 by Representative Brown, recommend the following concerning the Engrossed bill:

1. That the set of Senate Floor Amendments by Senator Luneau (#3398) be adopted.
2. That the following amendment to the Reengrossed bill be adopted:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, after line 19, insert the following:

"Section 3. The provisions of R.S. 23:1474(I) and 1592(E) as amended by Section 1 of this Act shall become effective if the state ceases and does not reinstate its participation in the federal government's supplemental unemployment benefits program provided in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 or any renewal or extension thereof by July 31, 2021."

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Chad Brown

Senator W. Jay Luneau

Representative Barbara W. Carpenter

Senator Mike Reese

Representative John M. Stefanski

Senator Glen Womack

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

House Bill No. 183 by Representative Brown

Keyword and onliner of the instrument as it left the House

UNEMPLOYMENT COMP: Provides relative to state income tax withholdings on federal disaster unemployment compensation benefits

Report adopts Senate amendments to:

1. Provide that the administrator shall publish annually the formula for calculating unemployment compensation benefits.
2. Change the formula for computation of benefits calculation.
3. Increase the weekly maximum benefit amount for unemployment compensation benefits for each Procedure by approximately \$28.
4. Provide that proposed law will become effective on the first January 1 immediately following the ending of the federal supplemental program for unemployment compensation benefits.
5. Provide for technical changes.

Report amends the bill to:

1. Provide that the provisions of proposed law shall become effective only if the state ceases and does not reinstate its participation in the federal government's supplemental benefits program provided for in federal law or any renewal or extension thereof by July 31, 2021.

Digest of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee

Present law provides that the administrator shall apply the proper procedure found in present law to the next calendar year beginning January 1st for maximum dollar amount of "wages", maximum weekly benefit amount, with any applicable discounts under present law, and the formula for computation of benefits.

Proposed law provides that the administrator shall apply the proper procedure found in present law to the next calendar year beginning January 1st for maximum dollar amount of "wages", the maximum weekly benefit amount, with any applicable discounts under present law, and publish annually the formula for computation of benefits.

Present law provides a table, containing different categories such as, the different procedures, applied trust fund balance range, maximum dollar amount of "wages", the formula for computation of benefits, and the maximum weekly benefit amount, that the administrator shall apply when making the determination for the comparative balance and applied trust fund balance range.

Present law provides in the table found in present law the formula for computation of benefits, which is to apply present law without the seven percent discount found in present law and then multiply by 1.5% and then multiply such amount by 1.3%.

Proposed law deletes the multiplication portion of the formula calculation and instead adds the phrase "to formula for computation of benefits".

Present law establishes the procedure which shall be applied by the administrator in determining the maximum weekly benefit amount.

- (1) Procedure 1: When the applied trust fund balance is less than \$750 million, the maximum benefit amount is \$221.
- (2) Procedure 2: When the applied trust fund balance is equal to or greater than \$750 million but less than \$1.15 billion, the maximum weekly benefit amount is \$247.
- (3) Procedure 3: When the applied trust fund balance is equal to or greater than \$1.15 billion but less than \$1.4 billion, the maximum benefit amount is \$258.
- (4) Procedure 4: When the applied trust fund balance is greater than \$1.4 billion, the maximum benefit amount is \$284.

Proposed law changes Procedure 1 by increasing the weekly maximum benefit amount from \$221 to \$249.

Proposed law changes Procedure 2 by increasing the weekly maximum benefit amount from \$247 to \$275.

Proposed law changes Procedure 3 by increasing the weekly maximum benefit amount from \$258 to \$282.

Proposed law changes Procedure 4 by increasing the weekly maximum benefit amount from \$284 to \$312.

Present law provides that in no event shall the weekly amount paid exceed \$284.

Proposed law increases the weekly benefit amount from \$284 to \$312.

Present law provides that if a claimant is eligible to receive any federal disaster unemployment assistance in addition to the maximum weekly benefit amounts established in present law, then the claimant, when filing a claim for state unemployment compensation benefits, shall be required to withhold state income taxes at the time the claim is filed.

Proposed law changes present law by providing that instead of requiring the claimant to withhold state income taxes, proposed law provides that the claimant may elect to withhold state income taxes at the time the claim is filed.

Proposed law provides that proposed law shall become effective on the Jan. 1st immediately following the ending of the federal supplemental program as certified by the secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission.

Proposed law provides that proposed law shall become effective only if the state ceases and does not reinstate its participation in the federal government's supplemental benefits program provided by in federal law or any renewal or extension thereof by July 31, 2021.

(Amends R.S. 23:1474(G)(3)(b) and (I), 1592(E), and 1693(J)(1))