
The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Yoursheka George.

SB 225 Original DIGEST Reese
2021 Regular Session

Present law provides relative to the maximum weekly amount of unemployment benefits.

Present law requires the secretary of the La. Workforce Commission (commission) to provide the Revenue Estimating Conference (conference) with certification from the U.S. Treasury of the September 1st balance of the state unemployment trust fund of the current calendar year. Requires the conference to adopt and report its official projection to the commission no earlier than September 5th and no later than September 30th.

Present law provides that after the conference's adoption of the official projection of the state unemployment trust fund for September 1st of the next calendar year, the secretary shall determine the comparative balance. The comparative balance is the lesser amount of the balance of the state unemployment trust fund as certified by the U.S. Treasury as of September 1st in the current calendar year or as projected by the conference for the September 1st of the next calendar year.

Present law provides that the amount of the comparative balance shall be used by the secretary to determine the applied trust fund balance range, and simultaneously, the maximum weekly benefit.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law sets the maximum weekly benefit as follows:

- (1) When the applied trust fund balance range is less than \$750,000,000, the maximum weekly benefit amount shall be \$221.
- (2) When the applied trust fund balance range is equal to or greater than \$750,000,000 but less than \$1,150,000,000, the maximum weekly benefit amount shall be \$247.
- (3) When the applied trust fund balance range is equal to or greater than \$1,150,000,000 but less than \$1,400,000,000, the maximum weekly benefit amount shall be \$258.
- (4) When the applied trust fund balance range is greater than \$1,400,000,000, the maximum weekly benefit amount shall be \$284.

Proposed law increases the maximum weekly benefit as follows:

- (1) When the applied trust fund balance range is less than \$750,000,000, the maximum weekly benefit amount shall be \$251.

- (2) When the applied trust fund balance range is equal to or greater than \$750,000,000 but less than \$1,150,000,000, the maximum weekly benefit amount shall be \$277.
- (3) When the applied trust fund balance range is equal to or greater than \$1,150,000,000 but less than \$1,400,000,000, the maximum weekly benefit amount shall be \$290.
- (4) When the applied trust fund balance range is greater than \$1,400,000,000, the maximum weekly benefit amount shall be \$300.

Proposed law defines "state average unemployment rate" to mean the average of the three months for the most recent third calendar year quarter of the seasonally adjusted unemployment rates as published by the commission, who shall be responsible for collecting and publishing unemployment rate data.

Present law provides that any otherwise eligible individual shall be entitled during any benefit year to a total amount of benefits equal to 26 times his weekly benefit amount, as determined by law provided that such total amount of benefits, if not a multiple of one dollar, shall be rounded to the nearest dollar.

Proposed law changes the duration of benefits as follows:

- (1) Any time the states average unemployment rate is at or below 5.5%, any otherwise eligible individual shall be entitled during any benefit year to a total amount of benefits equal to 12 times his weekly benefit amount as determined by law.
- (2) In addition to the amount of benefits equal to 12 times his weekly benefit and when the state's average unemployment rate is above 5.5%, any otherwise eligible individual shall be entitled to an additional amount of benefits equivalent to his weekly benefit amount determined by law times the number of .5% increments that the state's average unemployment rate exceeds 5.5%, provided that such total amount of benefits, if not one dollar, shall be rounded to the nearest dollar. Provides that the additional amounts of weekly benefits shall not exceed an amount equivalent to eight times his weekly benefit amount.

Present law provides that whenever a claimant's base period wages for insured work is not less than \$1,200, his weekly benefit amount shall be 1/25th of the average of his total wages for insured work paid during the four quarters of his base period and caps the weekly benefit amount paid at \$284.

Proposed law changes formula of the weekly benefit amount to be based on the state's average unemployment rate.

Proposed law caps the weekly benefit amount paid at \$300.

Effective when the state's average unemployment rate, as determined by the Louisiana Workforce Commission, is less than 5.5% for two consecutive calendar quarters.

(Amends R.S. 23:1474(I), 1592(A) and (E), and 1595)