HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

House Bill No. 183 by Representative Chad Brown

UNEMPLOYMENT COMP: Provides relative to state income tax withholdings on federal disaster unemployment compensation benefits and the maximum weekly benefit amount for unemployment benefits

---

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Makes technical changes.

2. Provides that the administrator shall publish annually the formula for computation of unemployment compensation benefits.

3. Deletes the multiplication portion of the formula for computation of benefits calculation and instead adds the phrase "to formula for computation of benefits".

4. Changes Procedure 1 by increasing the weekly maximum benefit amount for unemployment compensation benefits from $221 to $249.

5. Changes Procedure 2 by increasing the weekly maximum benefit amount for unemployment compensation benefits from $247 to $275.

6. Changes Procedure 3 by increasing the weekly maximum benefit amount for unemployment compensation benefits from $258 to $282.

7. Changes Procedure 4 by increasing the weekly maximum benefit amount for unemployment compensation benefits from $284 to $312.

8. Provides that proposed law shall become effective on the January 1st immediately following the ending of the federal supplemental program as certified by the administrator of the Louisiana Workforce Commission.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Abstract: Provides relative to the maximum weekly benefit amount for unemployment benefits and makes discretionary the withholding of state income taxes on federal disaster unemployment compensation benefits.

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 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 one point five percent and then multiply such amount by one point three percent.

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 January 1st immediately following the ending of the federal supplemental program as certified by the administrator of LWC.

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