

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.  
Act 412 of the Regular Session

1 State of Arkansas  
2 90th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2015  
4

As Engrossed: H3/6/15  
**A Bill**

HOUSE BILL 1489

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

11  
12 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

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

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19 **Subtitle**

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

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

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27 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.

28 The General Assembly finds that:

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

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

33 (3) Adjusting the benefit amounts to be paid to claimants will  
34 increase the state's ability to maintain the Unemployment Compensation Fund  
35 and to compete in attracting businesses.  
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1 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 11-10-502(a), concerning the weekly benefit  
2 amount for purposes of unemployment, is amended to read as follows:

3 (a) ~~An~~ For initial claims filed on or after the first day of the  
4 calendar quarter following the effective date of this act, an insured  
5 worker's weekly benefit amount shall be an amount equal to one-twenty-sixth  
6 (1/26) of his or her ~~total~~ average wages for insured work paid during the ~~one~~  
7 ~~(1) quarter of his or her base period in which the wages were highest~~ four  
8 (4) quarters of his or her base period.

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

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

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

20  
21 /s/Jean

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24 **APPROVED: 03/16/2015**