

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

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1489

5 By: Representative Jean
6 By: Senators J. Hendren, Hester
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND LAWS RELEVANT TO UNEMPLOYMENT
10 BENEFITS; TO AMEND THE MAXIMUM BENEFIT PERIOD AND
11 WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF
12 WORKFORCE SERVICES LAW; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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16 TO AMEND THE MAXIMUM BENEFIT PERIOD AND
17 WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT UNDER THE
18 DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE SERVICES LAW.
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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23 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.

24 The General Assembly finds that:

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

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

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

35 (a) ~~An~~ For initial claims filed on or after the first day of the
36 calendar quarter following the effective date of this act, an insured



1 worker's weekly benefit amount shall be an amount equal to one-twenty-sixth
 2 (1/26) of his or her ~~total~~ average wages for insured work paid during the ~~one~~
 3 ~~(1) quarter of his or her base period in which the wages were highest~~ four
 4 (4) quarters of his or her base period.

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

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

- 12 (1) ~~Twenty-five (25)~~ Twenty (20) times his or her weekly benefit
 13 amount; or
- 14 (2) One-third (1/3) of his or her wages for insured work in his
 15 or her base period.

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