

Unemployment Benefit Working Group

COVID-19 Recommendations

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Calculation of Unemployment Benefits

Effective August 2, 2020, the Division will use the two highest quarters of an employee's earnings in determining unemployment benefits.

Maximum Employment Benefits

Effective August 1, 2020, maximum unemployment benefits will be set at \$500 per week based on the employee's weekly wages.

Duration of Employment Benefits

An eligible individual will be entitled to receive unemployment benefits for a maximum period of 26 weeks, unless the benefit period is extended expressly by State or Federal law. (Ref. H713, 2019)

Eliminate Waiting Period

Unemployment benefits will be available to the employee immediately upon qualification, eliminating any waiting period.

Attached Claims

Employers may file "attached claims." (Covered by Executive Order 131.)

Short-Term Compensation (Work Share)

Employers may submit to the Division a plan for short-term compensation (STC), which would allow approved employers to reduce hours of work for employees rather than laying off some employees while others continue to work full time. Employees experiencing a reduction in hours under an approved plan will be allowed to collect a percentage of their unemployment benefits to replace a portion of their lost wages.

In order to qualify, employers must first be determined to be eligible for unemployment benefits. While receiving benefits under an STC plan, employees are not required to meet availability or work search requirements, but they are required to be available for their normal work hours. Employees will not be required to serve a mandatory “waiting week” before becoming eligible.

(Ref. S465, 2015 Session-Hartsell)