By Representatives Starks, Bitner and Arnall

1   A bill to be entitled
2   An act relating to unemployment compensation;
3   requiring a reduction in certain contribution
4   rates for 1 year; amending s. 443.111, F.S.;
5   increasing the maximum weekly benefit amount
6   for unemployment compensation benefits;
7   providing an effective date.
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9   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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11   Section 1. Notwithstanding the initial and minimum
12 contribution rates provided in s. 443.131, Florida Statutes,
13 for employers eligible for a contribution rate that varies
14 from the standard rate and for a period of 1 year beginning
15 July 1, 1997, the Division of Unemployment Compensation of the
16 Department of Labor and Employment Security, after computing
17 such employer's initial or minimum contribution rate, shall
18 reduce such rates by 25 percent. The division shall notify
19 each such employer of the reduced rate and contributions under
20 the reduced rate shall be payable in the same manner as
21 provided by law.
22   Section 2. Subsection (3) of section 443.111, Florida
23 Statutes, as amended by chapters 96-378 and 96-423, Laws of
24 Florida, is amended to read:
25   443.111 Payment of benefits.--
26   (3) WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT.--An individual's "weekly
27 benefit amount" shall be an amount equal to one-twenty-sixth
28 of the total wages for insured work paid during that quarter
29 of the base period in which such total wages paid were the
30 highest, but not less than $32 or more than$275$250. Such
31 weekly benefit amount, if not a multiple of $1, shall be

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1 rounded downward to the nearest full dollar amount. The

2 maximum weekly benefit amount in effect at the time the

3 claimant establishes an individual weekly benefit amount shall

4 be the maximum benefit amount applicable throughout the

5 claimant's benefit year.

6   Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 1997.

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9   HOUSE SUMMARY

10   Requires a 25 percent reduction in contribution rates for
     1 year for employers eligible for a contribution rate
11   that varies from the standard rate. Increases from $250
     to $275 the maximum weekly benefit amount for
12   unemployment compensation benefits.

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