

By Senator McKay

26-9-00

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to unemployment compensation;  
3           amending s. 1, ch. 97-29, Laws of Florida, as  
4           amended; extending for an additional year a  
5           temporary reduction in certain contribution  
6           rates for specified employers; amending s.  
7           443.111, F.S.; extending for a specified period  
8           a temporary increase in the maximum weekly and  
9           yearly benefit amounts for unemployment  
10          compensation benefits; specifying benefit  
11          years; providing an effective date.

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13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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15           Section 1. Section 1 of chapter 97-29, Laws of  
16 Florida, as amended by section 1 of chapter 99-131, Laws of  
17 Florida, is amended to read:

18           Section 1. Notwithstanding section 443.131(3), Florida  
19 Statutes, for the 2001 ~~2000~~ calendar year or any quarter  
20 thereof, the division shall subtract 0.5 percent from each  
21 employer's assigned tax rate, except for those employers who  
22 are assigned the initial rate or who have been assigned a  
23 contribution rate of 5.4 percent or higher for more than 36  
24 months. Notwithstanding section 443.131(2), Florida Statutes,  
25 for the 2001 ~~2000~~ calendar year, each employer whose  
26 employment record has been chargeable with benefit payments  
27 for less than eight calendar quarters shall pay contributions  
28 at the initial rate of 2 percent.

29           Section 2. Subsection (3) and paragraph (a) of  
30 subsection (5) of section 443.111, Florida Statutes, are  
31 amended to read:

1           443.111 Payment of benefits.--

2           (3) WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT.--An individual's "weekly  
3 benefit amount" shall be an amount equal to one twenty-sixth  
4 of the total wages for insured work paid during that quarter  
5 of the base period in which such total wages paid were the  
6 highest, but not less than \$32 or more than \$275. For claims  
7 with benefit years beginning January 1, 2001 ~~2000~~, through  
8 December 31, 2001 ~~2000~~, an additional 5 percent of the weekly  
9 benefit amount shall be added for the first 8 compensable  
10 weeks of benefits paid, not to exceed \$288. Such weekly  
11 benefit amount, if not a multiple of \$1, shall be rounded  
12 downward to the nearest full dollar amount. The maximum weekly  
13 benefit amount in effect at the time the claimant establishes  
14 an individual weekly benefit amount shall be the maximum  
15 benefit amount applicable throughout the claimant's benefit  
16 year.

17           (5) DURATION OF BENEFITS.--

18           (a)1. Any otherwise eligible individual shall be  
19 entitled during any benefit year to a total amount of benefits  
20 equal to 25 percent of the total wages in the base period, not  
21 to exceed \$7,150. For claims with benefit years beginning  
22 January 1, 2001 ~~2000~~, through December 31, 2001 ~~2000~~, an  
23 additional amount equal to 5 percent of the weekly benefit  
24 amount multiplied by 8 shall be added to the calculated total  
25 amount of benefits, the sum of which may not exceed \$7,254.  
26 However, such total amount of benefits, if not a multiple of  
27 \$1, shall be rounded downward to the nearest full dollar  
28 amount. Such benefits shall be payable at a weekly rate no  
29 greater than the weekly benefit amount.

30           2. For the purposes of this subsection, wages shall be  
31 counted as "wages for insured work" for benefit purposes with

1 respect to any benefit year only if such benefit year begins  
2 subsequent to the date on which the employing unit by whom  
3 such wages were paid has satisfied the conditions of this  
4 chapter with respect to becoming an employer.

5 (b) If the remuneration of an individual is not based  
6 upon a fixed period or duration of time or if the individual's  
7 wages are paid at irregular intervals or in such manner as not  
8 to extend regularly over the period of employment, the wages  
9 for any week or for any calendar quarter for the purpose of  
10 computing an individual's right to employment benefits only  
11 shall be determined in such manner as may by rule be  
12 prescribed. Such rules, so far as possible, shall secure  
13 results reasonably similar to those which would prevail if the  
14 individual were paid her or his wages at regular intervals.

15 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.  
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18 SENATE SUMMARY

19 Extends for an additional year a temporary reduction in  
20 certain unemployment compensation contribution rates for  
21 specified employers. Extends for an additional year a  
22 temporary increase in the maximum weekly and yearly  
23 benefit amounts for unemployment compensation benefits.  
24 Specifies benefit years.  
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