

Amendment No. \_\_\_\_ (for drafter's use only)

	<u>Senate</u>	CHAMBER ACTION	<u>House</u>
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ORIGINAL STAMP BELOW

Representative(s) Frankel offered the following:

**Amendment (with title amendment)**

On page 48, between lines 12 and 13, of the bill

insert:

Section 8. Subsection (7) of section 443.036, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

443.036 Definitions.--As used in this chapter, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

(7) BASE PERIOD.--

(a) "Base period" means the first four of the last five completed calendar quarters immediately preceding the first day of an individual's benefit year.

(b) With respect to a benefit year commencing on or after October 1, 2002, if an individual is not monetarily eligible in his or her base period to qualify for benefits, the division must designate his or her base period to be the alternative base period. As used in this paragraph, the term "alternative base period" means the last four completed calendar quarters immediately preceding the first day of an

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1 individual's benefit year. Wages used in a base period to  
2 establish a monetarily eligible benefit year may not be  
3 applied to establish monetary eligibility in any succeeding  
4 benefit year. If information regarding wages for the calendar  
5 quarter or quarters immediately preceding the benefit year has  
6 not been put into the division's mainframe database from the  
7 regular quarterly reports of wage information or is otherwise  
8 unavailable, the division shall request such information from  
9 the employer. An employer must provide the requested wage  
10 information within 10 days after receiving a request from the  
11 division. An employer who fails to provide the requested wage  
12 information within the required time is subject to the penalty  
13 for delinquent reports in s. 443.141(1)(b).

14 (c) For monetary determinations based upon the  
15 alternative base period under paragraph (b), if the division  
16 is unable to access the wage information through the  
17 division's mainframe database, the division may base the  
18 determination of eligibility for benefits on an affidavit  
19 submitted by the individual with respect to wages for those  
20 calendar quarters. The individual must furnish payroll  
21 information, if available, in support of the affidavit. A  
22 determination of benefits based upon an alternative base  
23 period shall be adjusted when the quarterly report of wage  
24 information from the employer is received, if that information  
25 causes a change in the determination.

26 Section 9. Subsection (3) and paragraph (a) of  
27 subsection (5) of section 443.111, Florida Statutes, are  
28 amended to read:

29 443.111 Payment of benefits.--

30 (3) WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT.--An individual's "weekly  
31 benefit amount" shall be an amount equal to one twenty-sixth

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1 of the total wages for insured work paid during that quarter  
2 of the base period in which such total wages paid were the  
3 highest, but not less than \$32 or more than \$275. For claims  
4 with benefit years beginning October 1, 2002 ~~January 1, 2000,~~  
5 ~~through December 31, 2000,~~ an additional amount equal to \$25  
6 or 15 5 percent of the weekly benefit amount, whichever is  
7 greater, shall be added for each ~~the first 8~~ compensable week  
8 ~~weeks~~ of benefits paid, not to exceed \$316 ~~\$288~~. Such weekly  
9 benefit amount, if not a multiple of \$1, shall be rounded  
10 downward to the nearest full dollar amount. The maximum weekly  
11 benefit amount in effect at the time the claimant establishes  
12 an individual weekly benefit amount shall be the maximum  
13 benefit amount applicable throughout the claimant's benefit  
14 year.

15 (5) DURATION OF BENEFITS.--

16 (a)1. Any otherwise eligible individual shall be  
17 entitled during any benefit year to a total amount of benefits  
18 equal to 25 percent of the total wages in the base period, not  
19 to exceed \$7,150. For claims with benefit years beginning  
20 October 1, 2002 ~~January 1, 2000,~~ ~~through December 31, 2000,~~ an  
21 additional amount equal to \$650 or 15 5 percent of the weekly  
22 benefit amount multiplied by 26, whichever is greater, ~~8~~ shall  
23 be added to the calculated total amount of benefits, the sum  
24 of which may not exceed \$8,216 ~~\$7,254~~. However, such total  
25 amount of benefits, if not a multiple of \$1, shall be rounded  
26 downward to the nearest full dollar amount. Such benefits  
27 shall be payable at a weekly rate no greater than the weekly  
28 benefit amount.

29 2. For the purposes of this subsection, wages shall be  
30 counted as "wages for insured work" for benefit purposes with  
31 respect to any benefit year only if such benefit year begins

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

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6 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

7 And the title is amended as follows:

8 On page 3, line 14, after the semicolon,

9

10 insert:

11 amending s. 443.036, F.S.; providing a  
12 definition and an application of an alternative  
13 base period; providing requirements and  
14 limitations; requiring employers to respond to  
15 requests for certain information and providing  
16 a penalty for failing to respond; providing for  
17 adjustments in determinations of monetary  
18 eligibility; amending s. 443.111, F.S.;  
19 providing an increase in weekly benefit amounts  
20 for a limited time period; providing the total  
21 amount of benefits;

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