



565626

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: UNFAV	.	
03/30/2021	.	
	.	
	.	
	.	

The Committee on Commerce and Tourism (Torres) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete lines 15 - 66

and insert:

Section 1. Subsection (3) and paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (5) of section 443.111, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

443.111 Payment of benefits.—

(3) WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT.—An individual's "weekly benefit amount" is an amount equal to one twenty-sixth of the total



565626

11 wages for insured work paid during that quarter of the base
12 period in which the total wages paid were the highest, but not
13 less than \$100 ~~\$32~~ or more than \$500 ~~\$275~~. The weekly benefit
14 amount, if not a multiple of \$1, is rounded downward to the
15 nearest full dollar amount. The maximum weekly benefit amount in
16 effect at the time the claimant establishes an individual weekly
17 benefit amount is the maximum benefit amount applicable
18 throughout the claimant's benefit year.

19 (5) DURATION OF BENEFITS.—

20 (b) Each otherwise eligible individual is entitled during
21 any benefit year to a total amount of benefits equal to 25
22 percent of the total wages in his or her base period, not to
23 exceed \$13,000 ~~\$6,325~~ or the product arrived at by multiplying
24 the weekly benefit amount with the number of weeks determined in
25 paragraph (c), whichever is less. However, the total amount of
26 benefits, if not a multiple of \$1, is rounded downward to the
27 nearest full dollar amount. These benefits are payable at a
28 weekly rate no greater than the weekly benefit amount.

29 (c) For claims submitted during a calendar year, the
30 duration of benefits is limited to twenty-six weeks÷

31 ~~1. Twelve weeks if this state's average unemployment rate~~
32 ~~is at or below 5 percent.~~

33 ~~2. An additional week in addition to the 12 weeks for each~~
34 ~~0.5 percent increment in this state's average unemployment rate~~
35 ~~above 5 percent.~~

36 ~~3. Up to a maximum of 23 weeks if this state's average~~
37 ~~unemployment rate equals or exceeds 10.5 percent.~~

38 Section 2. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment
39 made by this act to section 443.111, Florida Statutes, in a



565626

40 reference thereto, paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section
41 443.041, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

42 443.041 Waiver of rights; fees; privileged communications.—

43 (2) FEES.—

44 (b) An attorney at law representing a claimant for benefits
45 in any district court of appeal of this state or in the Supreme
46 Court of Florida is entitled to counsel fees payable by the
47 department as set by the court if the petition for review or
48 appeal is initiated by the claimant and results in a decision
49 awarding more benefits than provided in the decision from which
50 appeal was taken. The amount of the fee may not exceed 50
51 percent of the total amount of regular benefits permitted under
52 s. 443.111(5) (b) during the benefit year.

53 Section 3. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment
54 made by this act to section 443.111, Florida Statutes, in a
55 reference thereto, subsections (6) and (7) and paragraph (a) of
56 subsection (8) of section 443.1116, Florida Statutes, are
57 reenacted to read:

58 443.1116 Short-time compensation.—

59 (6) WEEKLY SHORT-TIME COMPENSATION BENEFIT AMOUNT.—The
60 weekly short-time compensation benefit amount payable to an
61 individual is equal to the product of her or his weekly benefit
62 amount as provided in s. 443.111(3) and the ratio of the number
63 of normal weekly hours of work for which the employer would not
64 compensate the individual to the individual's normal weekly
65 hours of work. The benefit amount, if not a multiple of \$1, is
66 rounded downward to the next lower multiple of \$1.

67 (7) TOTAL SHORT-TIME COMPENSATION BENEFIT AMOUNT.—An
68 individual may not be paid benefits under this section in any



565626

69 benefit year for more than the maximum entitlement provided in
70 s. 443.111(5), and an individual may not be paid short-time
71 compensation benefits for more than 26 weeks in any benefit
72 year.

73

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

75 And the title is amended as follows:

76 Delete lines 6 - 7

77 and insert:

78 to receive during a benefit year; revising the
79 duration of benefits; reenacting ss. 443.041(2)(b) and
80 443.1116(6), (7), and (8)(a), F.S.,