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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
04/17/2021	.	
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The Committee on Appropriations (Brodeur, Pizzo, and Powell) recommended the following:

1 **Senate Substitute for Amendment (196634) (with title**
2 **amendment)**

3
4 Delete lines 130 - 172
5 and insert:

6 6. In small counties as defined in s. 120.52(19), a
7 claimant engaging in systematic and sustained efforts to find
8 work must contact at least two ~~three~~ prospective employers for
9 each week of unemployment claimed.

10 7. The work search requirements of this paragraph do not



973418

11 apply to persons required to participate in reemployment
12 services under paragraph (e).

13 Section 2. Section 443.092, Florida Statutes, is created to
14 read:

15 443.092 Denial of reemployment assistance solely on the
16 basis of pregnancy prohibited.—The department may not deny a
17 person reemployment assistance solely on the basis of pregnancy.

18 Section 3. Subsection (3) and paragraphs (a), (b), and (c)
19 of subsection (5) of section 443.111, Florida Statutes, are
20 amended, and paragraph (b) of subsection (1) is republished, to
21 read:

22 443.111 Payment of benefits.—

23 (1) MANNER OF PAYMENT.—Benefits are payable from the fund
24 in accordance with rules adopted by the Department of Economic
25 Opportunity, subject to the following requirements:

26 (b) As required under s. 443.091(1), each claimant must
27 report at least biweekly to receive reemployment assistance
28 benefits and to attest to the fact that she or he is able and
29 available for work, has not refused suitable work, is seeking
30 work and has met the requirements of s. 443.091(1)(d), and, if
31 she or he has worked, to report earnings from that work. Each
32 claimant must continue to report regardless of any appeal or
33 pending appeal relating to her or his eligibility or
34 disqualification for benefits.

35 (3) WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT.—An individual's "weekly benefit
36 amount" is an amount equal to one twenty-sixth of the total
37 wages for insured work paid during that quarter of the base
38 period in which the total wages paid were the highest, but not
39 less than \$100 ~~\$32~~ or more than \$375 ~~\$275~~. The weekly benefit



973418

40 amount, if not a multiple of \$1, is rounded downward to the
41 nearest full dollar amount. The maximum weekly benefit amount in
42 effect at the time the claimant establishes an individual weekly
43 benefit amount is the maximum benefit amount applicable
44 throughout the claimant's benefit year.

45 (5) DURATION OF BENEFITS.—

46 (a) As used in this section, the term "most recent monthly
47 ~~Florida average~~ unemployment rate" means the most recently
48 available month's average of the 3 months for the most recent
49 ~~third calendar year quarter of the~~ seasonally adjusted statewide
50 unemployment rate ~~rates~~ as published by the Department of
51 Economic Opportunity.

52 (b) Each otherwise eligible individual is entitled during
53 any benefit year to a total amount of benefits equal to 25
54 percent of the total wages in his or her base period, not to
55 exceed \$9,375 ~~\$6,325~~ or the product arrived at by multiplying
56 the weekly benefit amount with the number of weeks determined in
57 paragraph (c), whichever is less. However, the total amount of
58 benefits, if not a multiple of \$1, is rounded downward to the
59 nearest full dollar amount. These benefits are payable at a
60 weekly rate no greater than the weekly benefit amount.

61 (c) For claims submitted during a calendar year, the
62 duration of benefits is limited to:

63 1. Fourteen ~~Twelve~~ weeks if this state's most recent
64 monthly average unemployment rate is at or below 5 percent.

65 2. An additional week in addition to the 14 ~~12~~ weeks for
66 each 0.5 percent increment in this state's most recent monthly
67 average unemployment rate above 5 percent.

68 3. Up to a maximum of 25 ~~23~~ weeks if this state's most



69 recent monthly ~~average~~ unemployment rate equals or exceeds 10.5
70 percent.

71
72 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

73 And the title is amended as follows:

74 Delete line 8

75 and insert:

76 to receive during a benefit year; revising the
77 definition of the term "Florida average unemployment
78 rate" to "most recent monthly unemployment rate;
79 increasing the duration of benefits based upon the
80 state's unemployment rate; creating s. 443.092, F.S.;
81 prohibiting the Department of Economic Opportunity
82 from denying a person reemployment assistance solely
83 on the basis of pregnancy; reenacting ss.