

By Senator Bracy

11-01523-22

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to reemployment assistance; amending  
3       s. 443.111, F.S.; increasing the maximum weekly and  
4       yearly benefit amounts for reemployment assistance;  
5       increasing the duration of such benefits; reenacting  
6       ss. 443.041(2)(b) and 443.1116(7) and (8)(a), F.S.,  
7       relating to attorney fees and short-time compensation,  
8       respectively, to incorporate the amendments made to s.  
9       443.111, F.S., in references thereto; providing an  
10      effective date.

11  
12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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

17       443.111 Payment of benefits.—

18       (3) WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT.—An individual's "weekly benefit  
19      amount" is an amount equal to one twenty-sixth of the total  
20      wages for insured work paid during that quarter of the base  
21      period in which the total wages paid were the highest, but not  
22      less than \$32 or more than \$400 ~~\$275~~. The weekly benefit amount,  
23      if not a multiple of \$1, is rounded downward to the nearest full  
24      dollar amount. The maximum weekly benefit amount in effect at  
25      the time the claimant establishes an individual weekly benefit  
26      amount is the maximum benefit amount applicable throughout the  
27      claimant's benefit year.

28       (5) DURATION OF BENEFITS.—

29       (b) Each otherwise eligible individual is entitled during

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30 any benefit year to a total amount of benefits equal to 25  
31 percent of the total wages in his or her base period, not to  
32 exceed \$10,400 ~~\$6,325~~ or the product arrived at by multiplying  
33 the weekly benefit amount with the number of weeks determined in  
34 paragraph (c), whichever is less. However, the total amount of  
35 benefits, if not a multiple of \$1, is rounded downward to the  
36 nearest full dollar amount. These benefits are payable at a  
37 weekly rate no greater than the weekly benefit amount.

38 (c) For claims submitted during a calendar year, the  
39 duration of benefits is limited to 26 weeks+

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

42 ~~2. An additional week in addition to the 12 weeks for each~~  
43 ~~0.5 percent increment in this state's average unemployment rate~~  
44 ~~above 5 percent.~~

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

47 Section 2. For the purpose of incorporating the amendments  
48 made by this act to section 443.111, Florida Statutes, in a  
49 reference thereto, paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section  
50 443.041, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

51 443.041 Waiver of rights; fees; privileged communications.—

52 (2) FEES.—

53 (b) An attorney at law representing a claimant for benefits  
54 in any district court of appeal of this state or in the Supreme  
55 Court of Florida is entitled to counsel fees payable by the  
56 department as set by the court if the petition for review or  
57 appeal is initiated by the claimant and results in a decision  
58 awarding more benefits than provided in the decision from which

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59 appeal was taken. The amount of the fee may not exceed 50  
60 percent of the total amount of regular benefits permitted under  
61 s. 443.111(5)(b) during the benefit year.

62 Section 3. For the purpose of incorporating the amendments  
63 made by this act to section 443.111, Florida Statutes, in  
64 references thereto, subsection (7) and paragraph (a) of  
65 subsection (8) of section 443.1116, Florida Statutes, are  
66 reenacted to read:

67 443.1116 Short-time compensation.—

68 (7) TOTAL SHORT-TIME COMPENSATION BENEFIT AMOUNT.—An  
69 individual may not be paid benefits under this section in any  
70 benefit year for more than the maximum entitlement provided in  
71 s. 443.111(5), and an individual may not be paid short-time  
72 compensation benefits for more than 26 weeks in any benefit  
73 year.

74 (8) EFFECT OF SHORT-TIME COMPENSATION BENEFITS RELATING TO  
75 THE PAYMENT OF REGULAR AND EXTENDED BENEFITS.—

76 (a) The short-time compensation benefits paid to an  
77 individual shall be deducted from the total benefit amount  
78 established for that individual in s. 443.111(5).

79 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.