Act No. 535
Public Acts of 1996
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STATE OF MICHIGAN
88TH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 1996

Introduced by Rep. DeLange

ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 6109

AN ACT to amend sections 8, 17, and 19 of Act No. 1 of the Public Acts of the Extra Session of 1936, entitled as amended "An act to protect the welfare of the people of this state through the establishment of an unemployment compensation fund, and to provide for the disbursement thereof; to create certain other funds; to create the Michigan employment security commission, and to prescribe its powers and duties; to provide for the protection of the people of this state from the hazards of unemployment; to levy and provide for contributions from employers; to provide for the collection of such contributions; to enter into reciprocal agreements and to cooperate with agencies of the United States and of other states charged with the administration of any unemployment insurance law; to furnish certain information to certain governmental agencies for use in administering public benefit and child support programs and investigating and prosecuting fraud; to provide for the payment of benefits; to provide for appeals from redeterminations, decisions and notices of assessments; and for referees and a board of review to hear and decide the issues arising from redeterminations, decisions and notices of assessment; to provide for the cooperation of this state and compliance with the provisions of the social security act and the Wagner-Peyser act passed by the Congress of the United States of America; to provide for the establishment and maintenance of free public employment offices; to provide for the transfer of funds; to make appropriations for carrying out the provisions of this act; to prescribe remedies and penalties for the violation of the provisions of this act; and to repeal all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act," section 17 as amended by Act No. 162 of the Public Acts of 1994 and section 19 as amended by Act No. 142 of the Public Acts of 1995, being sections 421.8, 421.17, and 421.19 of the Michigan Compiled Laws; and to repeal acts and parts of acts.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Section 1. Sections 8, 17, and 19 of Act No. 1 of the Public Acts of the Extra Session of 1936, section 17 as amended by Act No. 162 of the Public Acts of 1994 and section 19 as amended by Act No. 142 of the Public Acts of 1995, being sections 421.8, 421.17, and 421.19 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, are amended to read as follows:

Sec. 8. A basic purpose of this act is to lighten the burden of involuntary unemployment on the unemployed worker and his family. In view of this, the maximum weekly benefit rates under section 27(b) are related to the cost of the necessities of life for the various dependency classes recognized in that section. At the same time, the legislature has concluded that the maximum weekly benefit rates established in that section will finance the most favorable standard of living consistent with maintaining for unemployed individuals generally a proper incentive to seek and accept new work. To maintain this optimum relationship between maximum weekly benefit rates and the standard of living of the unemployed individual, the maximum weekly benefit rates established shall be reviewed annually. The commission shall annually, not later than February 28, compare the United States department of labor's consumers' price index for the preceding December with the corresponding United States department of labor's consumers' price index for the base month. The base month, as used in this subsection, means the month of June 1974, which shall remain the base month

until the next adjustment of maximum weekly benefit rates is made. Thereafter, the base month shall be the month of December preceding the most recent calendar year in which an adjustment of maximum weekly benefit rates is made. If in a calendar year the United States department of labor's consumers' price index for the preceding December has increased or decreased as compared to the base month, the commission shall determine the percentage of that increase or decrease. The commission shall then multiply the maximum weekly benefit rate for each dependency class by this percentage. If the product thus obtained is $1.00, or more, the commission shall report that fact to the governor, the legislature, and the Michigan employment security advisory council.

Sec. 17. (1) The commission shall maintain in the fund a nonchargeable benefits account, and a separate experience account for each employer as provided in this section. As used in this act, "experience account" means an account in the fund showing an employer's experience with respect to contribution payments and benefit charges under this act, determined and recorded in the manner provided in this act. "Nonchargeable benefits account" means the account in the fund maintained as provided in subsections (2) and (3). A reference in this act to the "solvency account" shall be construed to refer to the nonchargeable benefits account and a reference in this act to an employer's "experience record" or "rating account" shall be construed to include reference to the employer's experience account. But this act shall not be construed to grant an employer or individuals in the employer's service prior claims or rights to the amount paid by the employer to the unemployment compensation fund. All contributions to that fund shall be pooled and available to pay benefits to any individual entitled to the benefits under this act, irrespective of the source of the contributions.

(2) The nonchargeable benefits account shall be credited with the following:

(a) All net earnings received on money, property, or securities in the fund.

(b) Any positive balance remaining in the employer's experience account as of the second June 30 computation date occurring after the employer has ceased to be subject to this act or after the employer has elected to change from a contributing employer to a reimbursing employer.

(c) The proceeds of the nonchargeable benefits component of employers' contribution rates determined as provided in section 19(a)(5).

(d) All reimbursements received under section 11(c).

(e) All amounts which may be paid or advanced by the federal government under section 903 or section 1201 of the social security act, 42 U.S.C. 1103 and 1321, to the account of the state in the federal unemployment trust fund.

(f) All benefits improperly paid to claimants which have been recovered and which were previously charged to an employer's account.

(g) Any benefits forfeited by an individual by application of section 62(b).

(h) The amount of any benefit check, any employer refund check, or any claimant restitution refund check duly issued which has not been presented for payment within 1 year after the date of issue.

(i) Any other unemployment fund income not creditable to the experience account of any employer.

(j) Any negative balance transferred to an employer's new experience account pursuant to this section.

(k) Amounts transferred from the contingent fund pursuant to section 10.

(3) The nonchargeable benefits account shall be charged with the following:

(a) Any negative balance remaining in an employer's experience account as of the second June 30 computation date occurring after the employer has ceased to be subject to this act or has elected to change from a contributing employer to a reimbursing employer.

(b) Refunds of amounts erroneously collected due to the nonchargeable benefits component of an employer's contribution rate.

(c) All training benefits paid under section 27(g) not reimbursable by the federal government and based on service with a contributing employer.

(d) Any positive balance credited or transferred to an employer's new experience account pursuant to this subsection.

(e) Repayments to the federal government of amounts advanced by it under section 1201 of the social security act, 42 U.S.C. 1321, to the unemployment compensation fund established by this act.

(f) The amounts received by the fund under section 903 of the social security act, 42 U.S.C. 1103, that may be appropriated to the commission in accordance with subsection (9).

(g) All benefits determined to have been improperly paid to claimants which have been credited to employers' accounts in accordance with section 20(a).

(h) The amount of any substitute check issued to replace an uncashed benefit check, employer refund check, or claimant restitution refund check previously credited to this account.

(i) The amount of any benefit check issued which would be chargeable to the experience account of an employer who has ceased to be subject to this act, and who has had a balance transferred from the employer's experience account to the solvency or nonchargeable benefits account.

(j) All benefits which become nonchargeable to an employer under section 29(3) or section 19(b) or (c).

(k) For benefit years beginning before the conversion date prescribed in section 75, with benefits allocated under section 20(e)(2) for a week of unemployment in which a claimant earns remuneration with a contributing employer which equals or exceeds the amount of benefits allocated to that contributing employer, and for benefit years beginning after the conversion date prescribed in section 75, with benefits allocated under section 20(e)(3) for a week of unemployment in which a claimant earns remuneration with a contributing employer which equals or exceeds the amount of benefits allocated to that contributing employer.

(*l*) Benefits that are nonchargeable to an employer's account in accordance with section 20(i).

(4) All contributions paid by an employer shall be credited to the unemployment compensation fund, and, except as otherwise provided with respect to the proceeds of the nonchargeable benefits component of employers' contribution rates by section 19(a)(5), to the employer's experience account, as of the date when paid. However, those contributions paid during any July shall be credited as of the immediately preceding June 30. Additional contributions paid by an employer as the result of a retroactive contribution rate adjustment, solely for the purpose of this subsection, shall be credited to the employer's experience account as if paid when due, if the payment is received within 30 days after the issuance of the initial assessment which results from the contribution rate adjustment and a written request for the application is filed by the employer during this period.

(5) If an employer who has ceased to be subject to this act, and who has had a positive balance transferred as provided in subsection (2) from the employer's experience account to the solvency or nonchargeable benefits account as of the second computation date after the employer has ceased to be subject to this act, shall thereafter again become subject to this act within 6 years after that computation date, the employer may apply, within 60 days after the commission's determination that the employer is again subject to this act, to the commission to have the positive balance, adjusted by the debits and credits as have been made subsequent to the date of transfer, credited to the employer's new experience account. If the application is timely, the commission shall credit the positive balance to the employer's new experience account.

(6) If an employer's status as a reimbursing employer is terminated within 6 years after the date the employer's experience account as a prior contributing employer was transferred to the solvency or nonchargeable benefits account as provided in subsection (2) or (3) and the employer continues to be subject to this act as a contributing employer, any positive or negative balance in the employer's experience account as a prior contributing employer, which was transferred to the solvency or nonchargeable benefits account, shall be transferred to the employer's new experience account. However, an employer who is delinquent with respect to any reimbursement payments in lieu of contributions for which the employer may be liable shall not have a positive balance transferred during the delinquency.

(7) If a balance is transferred to an employer's new account under subsection (5) or (6), the employer shall not be considered a "qualified employer" until the employer has again been subject to this act for the period set forth in section 19(a)(1).

(8) All money credited under section 903 of the social security act, 42 U.S.C. 1103, to the account of the state in the federal unemployment trust fund shall immediately be credited by the commission to the fund's nonchargeable benefits account. There is authorized to be appropriated to the commission from the money credited to the nonchargeable benefits account under this subsection, sums found necessary for the proper and efficient administration by the commission of this act for purposes for which federal grants under Title 3 of the social security act, 42 U.S.C. 501 to 504, and the Wagner-Peyser national employment system act, 29 U.S.C. 49 to 49k, are not available or are insufficient. The appropriation shall expire not more than 2 years after the date of enactment and shall provide that any unexpended balance shall then be credited to the nonchargeable benefits account. An appropriation shall not be made under this subsection for an amount which exceeds the "adjusted balance" of the nonchargeable benefits account on the most recent computation date. Appropriations made under this subsection shall limit the total amount which may be obligated by the commission during a fiscal year to an amount which does not exceed the amount by which the aggregate of the amounts credited to the nonchargeable benefits account under this subsection during the fiscal year and the 24 preceding fiscal years, exceeds the aggregate of the amounts obligated by the commission pursuant to appropriation under this subsection and charged against the amounts thus credited to the nonchargeable benefits account during any of the 25 fiscal years and any amounts credited to the nonchargeable benefits account which have been used for the payment of benefits.

Sec. 19. (a) The commission shall determine the contribution rate of each contributing employer for each calendar year after 1977 as follows:

(1) (*i*) Except as provided in paragraph (*ii*), an employer's rate shall be calculated as described in table A with respect to wages paid by the employer in each calendar year for employment. If an employer's coverage is terminated under section 24, or at the conclusion of 8 or more consecutive calendar quarters during which the employer has not had

workers in covered employment, and if the employer becomes liable for contributions, the employer shall be considered as newly liable for contributions for the purposes of table A or table B of this subsection.

(*ii*) To provide against the high risk of net loss to the fund in such cases, an employing unit which becomes newly liable for contributions under this act in a calendar year beginning on or after January 1, 1983 in which it employs in "employment", not necessarily simultaneously but in any 1 week 2 or more individuals in the performance of 1 or more contracts or subcontracts for construction in the state of roads, bridges, highways, sewers, water mains, utilities, public buildings, factories, housing developments, or similar construction projects, shall be liable for contributions to that employer's account under this act for the first 4 years of operations in this state at a rate equal to the average rate paid by employers engaged in the construction business as determined by contractor type in the manner provided in table B.

(*iii*) For the calendar years 1983 and 1984, the contribution rate of a construction employer shall not exceed its 1982 contribution rate with respect to wages, paid by that employer, related to the execution of a fixed price construction contract which was entered into prior to January 1, 1983. Furthermore, such contribution rate shall be reduced, by the solvency tax rate assessed against the employer under section 19a, for the year in which such solvency tax rate is applicable. Furthermore, notwithstanding section 44, the taxable wage limit, for calendar years 1983 and 1984, with respect to wages paid under such fixed price contract, shall be the maximum amount of remuneration paid within a calendar year by an employer subject to the federal unemployment tax act, 26 U.S.C. 3301 to 3311, to an individual with respect to employment as defined in that act which is subject to tax under that act during that year.

Table A

Year of Contribution Liability	Contribution Rate
1	2.7%
2	2.7%
3	1/3 (chargeable benefits component) + 1.8%
4	2/3 (chargeable benefits component) + 1.0%
5 and over	(chargeable benefits component) + (account building component) + (nonchargeable benefits component)

Table B

Year of Contribution Liability	Contribution Rate
1	average construction contractor rate as determined by the commission
2	average construction contractor rate as determined by the commission
3	1/3 (chargeable benefits component) + 2/3 average construction contractor rate as determined by the commission
4	2/3 (chargeable benefits component) + 1/3 average construction contractor rate as determined by the commission
5 and over	(chargeable benefits component) + (account building component) + (nonchargeable benefits component)

(2) With the exception of employers who are in the first 4 consecutive years of liability, each employer's contribution rate for each calendar year after 1977 shall be the sum of the following components, all of which are determined as of the computation date: a chargeable benefits component determined under subdivision (3), an account building component determined under subdivision (4), and a nonchargeable benefits component determined under subdivision (5). Each employer's contribution rate for calendar years before 1978 shall be determined by the provisions of this act in effect during the years in question.

(3) (*i*) The chargeable benefits component of an employer's contribution rate is the percentage determined by dividing: the total amount of benefits charged to the employer's experience account within the lesser of 60 consecutive months ending on the computation date or the number of consecutive months ending on the computation date with respect to which the employer has been continuously liable for contributions; by the amount of wages, subject to contributions, paid by the employer within the same period. If the resulting quotient is not an exact multiple of 1/10 of 1%, it shall be increased to the next higher multiple of 1/10 of 1%.

(*ii*) For benefit years established before the conversion date prescribed in section 75, the chargeable benefits component shall not exceed 6.0%, unless there is a statutory change in the maximum duration of regular benefit

payments or the statutory ratio of regular benefit payments to credit weeks. In the event of a change in the maximum duration of regular benefit payments, the maximum chargeable benefits component shall increase by the same percentage as the statutory percentage change in the duration of regular benefit payments between computation dates. In the event of an increase in the statutory ratio of regular benefit payments to credit weeks, as described in section 27(d), the maximum chargeable benefits component determined as of the computation dates occurring after the effective date of the increased ratio shall increase by 1/2 the same percentage as the increase in the ratio of regular benefit payments to credit weeks. If the resulting increase is not already an exact multiple of 1/10 of 1%, it shall be adjusted to the next higher multiple of 1/10 of 1%. For benefit years established after the conversion date prescribed in section 75, the chargeable benefits component shall not exceed 6.0%, unless there is a statutory change in the maximum duration of regular benefit payments or the percentage factor of base period wages, which defines maximum duration, as provided in section 27(d). If there is a statutory change in the maximum duration of regular benefit payments, the maximum chargeable benefits component shall increase by the same percentage as the statutory percentage change in the duration of regular benefit payments between computation dates. If there is an increase in the statutory percentage factor of base period wages, as described in section 27(d), the maximum chargeable benefits component determined as of the computation dates occurring after the effective date of the increased ratio shall increase by 1/2 the same percentage as the increase in the percentage factor of base period wages. If the resulting increase is not already an exact multiple of 1/10 of 1%, it shall be adjusted to the next higher multiple of 1/10 of 1%.

(4) The account building component of an employer's contribution rate is the percentage arrived at by the following calculations: (*i*) Multiply the amount of the employer's total payroll for the 12 months ending on the computation date, by the cost criterion; (*ii*) Subtract the amount of the balance in the employer's experience account as of the computation date from the product determined under (*i*); and (*iii*) if the remainder is zero or a negative quantity, the account building component of the employer's contribution rate shall be zero; but (*iv*) if the remainder is a positive quantity, the account building component of the employer's contribution rate shall be determined by dividing that remainder by the employer's total payroll paid within the 12 months ending on the computation date. The account building component shall not exceed the lesser of 1/4 of the percentage thus calculated or 2%. However, except as otherwise provided in this subdivision, the account building component shall not exceed the lesser of 1/2 of the percentage thus calculated or 3%, if on the June 30 of the preceding calendar year the balance in the unemployment compensation fund was less than 50% of an amount equal to the aggregate of all contributing employers' annual payrolls, for the 12 months ending March 31, times the cost criterion. For calendar years after 1993 and before 1996, the account building component shall not exceed the lesser of .69 of the percentage calculated, or 3%, if on the June 30 of the preceding calendar year the balance in the unemployment compensation fund was less than 50% of an amount equal to the aggregate of all contributing employers' annual payrolls, for the 12 months ending March 31, as defined in section 18(f), times the cost criterion; selected for the computation date under section 18(e). If the account building component determined under this subdivision is not an exact multiple of 1/10 of 1%, it shall be adjusted to the next higher multiple of 1/10 of 1%.

(5) The nonchargeable benefits component of employers' contribution rates is the percentage arrived at by the following calculations: (*i*) multiply the aggregate amount of all contributing employers' annual payrolls, for the 12 months ending March 31, as defined in section 18(f), by the cost criterion selected for the computation date under section 18(e); (*ii*) subtract the balance of the unemployment fund on the computation date, net of federal advances, from the product determined under (*i*); and (*iii*) if the remainder is zero or a negative quantity, the nonchargeable benefits component of employers' contribution rates shall be zero; but (*iv*) if the remainder is a positive quantity, the nonchargeable benefits component of employers' contribution rates shall be determined by dividing that remainder by the total of wages subject to contributions under this act paid by all contributing employers within the 12 months ending on March 31 and adjusting the quotient, if not an exact multiple of 1/10 of 1%, to the next higher multiple of 1/10 of 1%. The maximum nonchargeable benefits component shall be 1%. However, for calendar years after 1993, if there are no benefit charges against an employer's account for the 60 months ending as of the computation date, or for calendar years after 1995, if the employer's chargeable benefits component is less than 2/10 of 1%, the maximum nonchargeable benefit component shall not exceed 1/2 of 1%. For calendar years after 1995, if there are no benefit charges against an employer's account for the 72 months ending as of the computation date, the maximum nonchargeable benefits component shall not exceed 4/10 of 1%. For calendar years after 1996, if there are no benefit charges against an employer's account for the 84 months ending as of the computation date, the maximum nonchargeable benefits component shall not exceed 3/10 of 1%. For calendar years after 1997, if there are no benefit charges against an employer's account for the 96 months ending as of the computation date, the maximum nonchargeable benefits component shall not exceed 2/10 of 1%. For calendar years after 1998, if there are no benefit charges against an employer's account for the 108 months ending as of the computation date, the maximum nonchargeable benefits component shall not exceed 1/10 of 1%. An employer with a positive balance in its experience account on the June 30 computation date preceding the calendar year shall receive for that calendar year a credit in an amount equal to 1/2 of the extra federal unemployment tax paid in the preceding calendar year under section 3302(c)(2) of the federal unemployment tax act, 26 U.S.C. 3302(c)(2), because of an outstanding balance of unrepaid advances from the federal government to the unemployment compensation fund under section 1201 of the social security act, 42 U.S.C. 1321. However, the credit for any calendar year shall not exceed an amount determined by multiplying the employer's nonchargeable benefit component for that calendar year times the employer's taxable payroll for that year.

Contributions paid by an employer shall be credited to the employer's experience account, in accordance with the provisions of section 17(5), without regard to any credit given under this subsection. The amount credited to an employer's experience account shall be the amount of the employer's tax before deduction of the credit provided in this subsection.

(6) The total of the chargeable benefits and account building components of an employer's contribution rate shall not exceed by more than 1% in the 1983 calendar year, 1.5% in the calendar year 1984, or 2% in the 1985 calendar year the higher of 4% or the total of the chargeable benefits and the account building components which applied to the employer during the preceding calendar year. For calendar years after 1985, the total of the chargeable benefits and account building components of the employer's contribution rate shall be computed without regard to the foregoing limitation provided in this subdivision. During a year in which this subdivision limits an employer's contribution rate, the resulting reduction shall be considered to be entirely in the experience component of the employer's contribution rate, as defined in section 18(d).

(7) Unless an employer's contribution rate is 1/10 of 1% for calendar years beginning after December 31, 1995, the employer's contribution rate shall be reduced by any of the following calculation methods that results in the lowest rate:

(*i*) The chargeable benefits component, the account building component, and the nonchargeable benefits component of the contribution rate calculated under this section shall each be reduced by 10% and if the resulting quotient is not an exact multiple of 1/10 of 1%, that quotient shall be increased to the next higher multiple of 1/10 of 1%. The 3 components as increased shall then be added together.

(*ii*) One-tenth of 1% shall be deducted from the contribution rate.

(*iii*) The contribution rate shall be reduced by 10% and if the resulting quotient is not an exact multiple of 1/10 of 1%, that quotient shall be increased to the next higher multiple of 1/10 of 1%.

The contribution rate reduction described in this section applies to employers who have been liable for the payment of contributions in accordance with this act for more than 4 consecutive years, if the balance of money in the unemployment compensation fund established under section 26, excluding money borrowed from the federal unemployment trust fund, is equal to or greater than 1.2% of the aggregate amount of all contributing employers' payrolls for the 12-month period ending on the computation date. If the employer's contribution rate is reduced by a 1/10 of 1% deduction in accordance with this subdivision, the employer's contributions shall be credited to each of the components of the contribution rate on a pro rata basis. As used in this subdivision:

(*i*) "Federal unemployment trust fund" means the fund created under section 904 of title IX of the social security act, 42 U.S.C. 1104.

(*ii*) "Payroll" means that term as defined in section 18(f).

(b) An employer previously liable for contributions under this act which on or after January 1, 1978 filed a petition for arrangement under the bankruptcy act of 1898, chapter 541, 30 Stat. 544, or on or after October 1, 1979 filed a petition for reorganization under title 11 of the United States code, entitled bankruptcy, 11 U.S.C. 101 to 1330 pursuant to which a plan of arrangement or reorganization for rehabilitation purposes has been confirmed by order of the United States bankruptcy court, shall be considered as a reorganized employer and shall have a reserve fund balance of zero as of the first calendar year immediately following court confirmation of the plan of arrangement or reorganization, but not earlier than the calendar year beginning January 1, 1983, if the employer meets each of the following requirements:

(1) An employer whose plan of arrangement or reorganization has been confirmed as of January 1, 1983 shall, within 60 days after January 1, 1983, notify the commission of its intention to elect the status of a reorganized employer. An employer which has not had a plan of arrangement or reorganization confirmed as of January 1, 1983 shall, within 60 days after the entry by the bankruptcy court of the order of confirmation of the plan of arrangement or reorganization, notify the commission of its intention to elect the status of a reorganized employer. An employer shall not make an election under this subdivision after December 31, 1985.

(2) The employer has paid to the commission all contributions previously owed by the employer pursuant to this act for all calendar years prior to the calendar year as to which the employer elects to begin its status as a reorganized employer.

(3) More than 50% of the employer's total payroll is paid for services rendered in this state during the employer's fiscal year immediately preceding the date the employer notifies the fund administrator of its intention to elect the status of a reorganized employer.

(4) The employer, within 180 days after notifying the commission of its intention to elect the status of a reorganized employer, makes a cash payment to the commission, for the unemployment compensation fund, equal to: .20 times the first $2,000,000.00 of the employer's negative balance, .35 times the amount of the employer's negative balance above $2,000,000.00 and up to $5,000,000.00, and .50 times the amount of the negative balance above $5,000,000.00. The total amount so determined by the commission shall be based on the employer's negative balance existing as of the end of the calendar month immediately preceding the calendar year in which the employer will begin its status as a reorganized employer. If the employer fails to pay the amount determined, within 180 days of electing status as a reorganized employer, the commission shall reinstate the employer's negative balance previously reduced and

redetermine the employer's rate on the basis of such reinstated negative balance. Such redetermined rate shall then be used to redetermine the employer's quarterly contributions for that calendar year. Such redetermined contributions shall be subject to the interest provisions of section 15 as of the date the redetermined quarterly contributions were originally due.

(5) Except as provided in subdivision (6), the employer contribution rates for a reorganized employer beginning with the first calendar year of the employer's status as a reorganized employer shall be as follows:

Year of Contribution Liability	Contribution Rate
1	2.7% of total taxable wages paid
2	2.7%
3	2.7%
4 and over	(chargeable benefits component based upon 3-year experience) plus (account building component based upon 3-year experience) plus (nonchargeable benefits component)

(6) To provide against the high risk of net loss to the fund in such cases, any reorganized employer which employs in "employment", not necessarily simultaneously but in any 1 week 25 or more individuals in the performance of 1 or more contracts or subcontracts for construction in the state of roads, bridges, highways, sewers, water mains, utilities, public buildings, factories, housing developments, or similar major construction projects, shall be liable beginning the first calendar year of the employer's status as a reorganized employer for contribution rates as follows:

Year of Contribution Liability	Contribution Rate
1	average construction contractor rate as determined by the commission
2	average construction contractor rate as determined by the commission
3	1/3 (chargeable benefits component) + 2/3 average construction contractor rate as determined by the commission
4	2/3 (chargeable benefits component) + 1/3 average construction contractor rate as determined by the commission
5 and over	(chargeable benefits component) + (account building component) + (nonchargeable benefits component)

(c) Upon application by an employer to the commission for designation as a distressed employer, the commission, within 60 days after receipt of the application, shall make a determination whether the employer meets the conditions set forth in this subsection. Upon finding that the conditions are met, the commission shall notify the legislature of the determination and request legislative acquiescence in the determination. If the legislature approves the determination by concurrent resolution, the employer shall be considered to be a "distressed employer" as of January 1 of the year in which the determination is made. The commission shall notify the employer of such determination and notify the employer of its contribution rate as a distressed employer and the contribution rate that would apply if the employer was not a distressed employer. The distressed employer shall determine its tax contribution using the 2 rates furnished by the commission and shall pay its tax contribution based on the lower of the 2 rates. If the determination of distressed employer status is made during the calendar year, the employer shall be entitled to a credit on future quarterly installments for any excess contributions paid during that initial calendar year. The employer shall notify the commission of the difference between the amount paid and the amount which would have been paid if the employer were not determined to be a distressed employer and the difference will be owed to the unemployment compensation fund, payable in accordance with this subsection. Cumulative totals of the difference must be reported to the commission with each return required to be filed. The commission may periodically determine continued eligibility of an employer under this subsection. When the commission makes a determination that an employer no longer qualifies as a distressed employer, the commission shall notify the employer of that determination. After notice by the commission that the employer no longer qualifies as a distressed employer, the employer will be liable for contributions, beginning with the first quarter occurring after receipt of notification of disqualification, on the basis of the rate that would apply if the employer was not a distressed employer. The contribution rate for a distressed employer shall be calculated under the law in effect for the 1982 calendar year except that the rate thus determined shall be reduced by the applicable solvency tax rate assessed against the employer under section 19a. The taxable wage limit of such distressed employer for the 1983, 1984, and 1985 calendar years shall be the maximum amount of remuneration paid within a calendar year by such an employer subject to the federal unemployment tax act, 26 U.S.C. 3301 to 3311, to an individual with respect to employment as defined in that act which is subject to tax under that act during that year. Commencing with the fourth quarter of 1986, the distressed employer will pay in 10 equal annual installments the amount of the unpaid contributions owed to the unemployment compensation fund due to the application of this subsection, without interest.

Each installment shall be made with the fourth quarterly return for the respective year. As used in this subsection, "distressed employer" means an employer whose continued presence in this state is considered essential to the state's economic well-being and who meets the following criteria:

(1) The employer's average annual Michigan payroll in the 5 previous years exceeded $500,000,000.00.

(2) The employer's average quarterly number of employees in Michigan in the 5 previous years exceeded 25,000.

(3) The employer's business income as defined in section 3 of Act No. 228 of the Public Acts of 1975, being section 208.3 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, has resulted in an aggregate loss of $1,000,000,000.00 or more during the 5-year period ending in the second year prior to the year for which the application is being made.

(4) The employer has received from the state of Michigan loans totaling $50,000,000.00 or more or loan guarantees from the federal government in excess of $500,000,000.00, either of which are still outstanding.

(5) Failure to give an employer designation as a distressed employer would adversely impair the employer's ability to repay the outstanding loans owed to the state of Michigan or which are guaranteed by the federal government.

(d) An employer may at any time make payments to that employer's experience account in the fund in excess of the requirements of this section, but these payments, when accepted by the commission, shall be irrevocable. A payment made by an employer within 30 days after mailing to the employer by the commission of a notice of the adjusted contribution rate of the employer shall be credited to the employer's account as of the computation date for which the adjusted contribution rate was computed, and the employer's contribution rate shall be further adjusted accordingly. However, a payment made more than 120 days after the beginning of a calendar year shall not affect the employer's contribution rate for that year.

Section 2. Section 67a of Act No. 1 of the Public Acts of the Extra Session of 1936, being section 421.67a of the Michigan Compiled Laws, is repealed.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Secretary of the Senate.

Approved _____

Governor.