

Act No. 19
Public Acts of 2009
Approved by the Governor
April 13, 2009
Filed with the Secretary of State
April 13, 2009
EFFECTIVE DATE: April 13, 2009

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
95TH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2009**

Introduced by Senator Allen

ENROLLED SENATE BILL No. 399

AN ACT to amend 1936 (Ex Sess) PA 1, entitled "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," by amending section 64 (MCL 421.64), as amended by 2003 PA 174.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Sec. 64. (1)(a) Payment of extended benefits under this section shall be made at the individual's weekly extended benefit rate, for any week of unemployment that begins in the individual's eligibility period, to each individual who is fully eligible and not disqualified under this act, who has exhausted all rights to regular benefits under this act, who is not seeking or receiving benefits with respect to that week under the unemployment compensation law of Canada, and who does not have rights to benefits under the unemployment compensation law of any other state or the United States or to compensation or allowances under any other federal law, such as the trade expansion act, the automotive products trade act, or the railroad unemployment insurance act; however, if the individual is seeking benefits and the appropriate agency finally determines that the individual is not entitled to benefits under another law, the individual shall be considered to have exhausted the right to benefits. For the purpose of the preceding sentence, an individual shall have

exhausted the right to regular benefits under this section with respect to any week of unemployment in the individual's eligibility period under either of the following circumstances:

(i) When payments of regular benefits may not be made for that week because the individual has received all regular benefits available based on his or her employment or wages during the base period for the current benefit year.

(ii) When the right to the benefits has terminated before that week by reason of the expiration or termination of the benefit year with respect to which the right existed; and the individual has no, or insufficient, wages or employment to establish a new benefit year. However, for purposes of this subsection, an individual shall be considered to have exhausted the right to regular benefits with respect to any week of unemployment in his or her eligibility period when the individual may become entitled to regular benefits with respect to that week or future weeks, but the benefits are not payable at the time the individual claims extended benefits because final action on a pending redetermination or on an appeal has not yet been taken with respect to eligibility or qualification for the regular benefits or when the individual may be entitled to regular benefits with respect to future weeks of unemployment, but regular benefits are not payable with respect to any week of unemployment in his or her eligibility period by reason of seasonal limitations in any state unemployment compensation law.

(b) Except where inconsistent with the provisions of this section, the terms and conditions of this act that apply to claims for regular benefits and to the payment of those benefits apply to claims for extended benefits and to the payment of those benefits.

(c) An individual shall not be paid additional compensation and extended compensation with respect to the same week. If an individual is potentially eligible for both types of compensation in this state with respect to the same week, the bureau may pay extended compensation instead of additional compensation with respect to the week. If an individual is potentially eligible for extended compensation in 1 state and potentially eligible for additional compensation for the same week in another state, the individual may elect which of the 2 types of compensation to claim.

(2) The bureau shall establish, for each eligible individual who files an application, an extended benefit account with respect to that individual's benefit year. The amount established in the account shall be determined as follows:

(a) If subdivision (b) does not apply, whichever of the following is smaller:

(i) Fifty percent of the total amount of regular benefits payable to the individual under this act during the benefit year.

(ii) Thirteen times the individual's weekly extended benefit rate.

(b) With respect to a week beginning in a period in which the average rate of total unemployment as described in subsection (5)(c)(i) equals or exceeds 8%, but no later than the end of the week in which extended benefits payable under this section cease to be funded under section 2005 of the American recovery and reinvestment act of 2009, Public Law 111-5, whichever of the following is smaller:

(i) Eighty percent of the total amount of regular benefits payable to the individual under this act during the benefit year.

(ii) Twenty times the individual's weekly extended benefit rate.

If an amount determined under this subsection is not an exact multiple of 1/2 of the individual's weekly extended benefit rate, the amount shall be decreased to the next lower such multiple.

(3) All of the following apply to an extended benefit period:

(a) The period begins with the third week after whichever of the following weeks first occurs:

(i) A week for which there is a national "on" indicator as determined by the United States secretary of labor.

(ii) A week for which there is a Michigan "on" indicator.

(b) The period ends with the third week after the first week for which there is both a national "off" indicator and a Michigan "off" indicator.

(c) The period is at least 13 consecutive weeks long, and does not begin by reason of a Michigan "on" indicator before the fourteenth week after the close of a prior extended benefit period under this section. However, an extended benefit period terminates with the week preceding the week for which no extended benefit payments are considered to be shareable compensation under the federal-state extended unemployment compensation act of 1970, section 3304 nt of the internal revenue code of 1986, 26 USC 3304 nt.

(4) An individual's "eligibility period" consists of the weeks in his or her benefit year that begin in an extended benefit period, and if his or her benefit year ends within the extended benefit period, any weeks thereafter that begin in the period.

(5) (a) With respect to weeks beginning after September 25, 1982, a national "on" indicator for a week shall be determined by the United States secretary of labor.

(b) A national "off" indicator for a week shall be determined by the United States secretary of labor.

(c) There is a Michigan “on” indicator for a week if 1 or both of the following apply:

(i) The rate of insured unemployment under this act for the period consisting of that week and the immediately preceding 12 weeks equaled or exceeded 120% of the average of the insured unemployment rates for the corresponding 13-week period ending in each of the preceding 2 calendar years, and equaled or exceeded 5%.

(ii) For weeks beginning after the week in which the 2009 amendatory act that amended this subparagraph becomes effective and ending at the end of the week in which extended benefits payable under this section cease to be funded under section 2005 of the American recovery and reinvestment act of 2009, Public Law 111-5, the average rate of total unemployment in this state, seasonally adjusted, as determined by the United States secretary of labor, for the period consisting of the most recent 3 months for which data for all states are published before the close of the week equaled or exceeded both of the following:

(A) Six and one-half percent.

(B) One hundred ten percent of the average rate of total unemployment in this state, seasonally adjusted, for the period consisting of the corresponding 3-month period in either or both of the preceding 2 calendar years.

(d) There is a Michigan “off” indicator for a week if, for the period consisting of that week and the immediately preceding 12 weeks, either subdivision (c)(i) or (c)(ii) was not satisfied. Notwithstanding any other provision of this act, if this state is in a period in which temporary extended unemployment compensation is payable in this state under title II of the job creation and worker assistance act of 2002, Public Law 107-147, or another similar federal law, and if the governor has the authority under that federal act or another similar federal law, then the governor may elect to trigger “off” the Michigan indicator for extended benefits under this act only for a period in which temporary extended unemployment compensation is payable in this state, if the election by the governor would not result in a decrease in the number of weeks of unemployment benefits payable to an individual under this act or under federal law.

(e) For purposes of subdivisions (c) and (d), the rate of insured unemployment for any 13-week period shall be determined by reference to the average monthly covered employment under this act for the first 4 of the most recent 6 calendar quarters ending before the close of that period.

(f) As used in this subsection, “rate of insured unemployment” means the percentage determined by dividing:

(i) The average weekly number of individuals filing claims for regular benefits for weeks of unemployment with respect to the specified period as determined on the basis of the reports made by all state agencies or, in the case of subdivisions (c) and (d), by the bureau, to the federal government; by

(ii) In the case of subdivisions (c) and (d), the average monthly covered employment under this act for the specified period.

(g) Calculations under subdivisions (c) and (d) shall be made by the bureau and shall conform to regulations, if any, prescribed by the United States secretary of labor under authority of the federal-state extended unemployment compensation act of 1970 title II of Public Law 91-373, section 3304 nt of the internal revenue code of 1986, 26 USC 3304 nt.

(h) An “on” indicator under subdivision (c)(ii) applies to claimants who qualify for benefits payable beginning the week after the effective date of the 2009 amendatory act that amended this subdivision and ending the last week extended benefits under this section are funded under section 2005 of the American recovery and reinvestment act of 2009, Public Act 111-5.

(6) As used in this section:

(a) “Regular benefits” means benefits payable to an individual under this act and, unless otherwise expressly provided, under any other state unemployment compensation law, including unemployment benefits payable pursuant to 5 USC 8501 to 8525, other than extended benefits, and other than additional benefits which includes training benefits under section 27(g).

(b) “Extended benefits” means benefits, including additional benefits and unemployment benefits payable pursuant to 5 USC 8501 to 8525, payable for weeks of unemployment beginning in an extended benefit period to an individual as provided under this section.

(c) “Additional benefits” means benefits totally financed by a state and payable to exhaustees by reason of conditions of high unemployment or by reason of other special factors under the provisions of any state law as well as training benefits paid under section 27(g) with respect to an extended benefit period.

(d) “Weekly extended benefit rate” means an amount equal to the amount of regular benefits payable under this act to an individual within the individual’s benefit year for a week of total unemployment, unless the individual had more than 1 weekly extended benefit rate within that benefit year, in which case the individual’s weekly extended benefit rate shall be computed by dividing the maximum amount of regular benefits payable under this act within that benefit year by the number of weeks for which benefits were payable, adjusted to the next lower multiple of \$1.00.

(e) “Benefits payable” includes all benefits computed in accordance with section 27(d), irrespective of whether the individual was otherwise eligible for the benefits within his or her current benefit year and irrespective of any benefit reduction by reason of a disqualification that required a reduction.

(7) (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1)(b), an individual shall be ineligible for payment of extended benefits for any week of unemployment if the bureau finds that during that period either of the following occurred:

(i) The individual failed to accept any offer of suitable work or failed to apply for any suitable work to which the individual was referred by the bureau.

(ii) The individual failed to actively engage in seeking work as described in subdivision (f).

(b) Any individual who has been found ineligible for extended benefits under subdivision (a) shall also be denied benefits beginning with the first day of the week following the week in which the failure occurred and until the individual has been employed in each of 4 subsequent weeks, whether or not consecutive, and has earned remuneration equal to not less than 4 times the extended weekly benefit amount, as determined under subsection (2).

(c) As used in this subsection, "suitable work" means, with respect to any individual, any work that is within that individual's capabilities, if both of the following apply:

(i) The gross weekly remuneration payable for the work exceeds the sum of the following:

(A) The individual's extended weekly benefit amount as determined under subsection (2).

(B) The amount, if any, of supplemental unemployment compensation benefits, as defined in section 501(c)(17)(D) of the internal revenue code of 1986, 26 USC 501(c)(17)(D), payable to the individual for that week.

(ii) The employer pays wages not less than the higher of the minimum wage provided by section 6(a)(1) of the fair labor standards act of 1938, 29 USC 206(a)(1), without regard to any exemption, or the applicable state or local minimum wage.

(d) An individual shall not be denied extended benefits for failure to accept an offer of, or apply for, any job that meets the definition of suitable work as described in subdivision (c) if 1 or more of the following are true:

(i) The position was not offered to the individual in writing and was not listed with the state employment service.

(ii) The failure could not result in a denial of benefits under the definition of suitable work in section 29(6) to the extent that the criteria of suitability in that section are not inconsistent with the provisions of subdivision (c).

(iii) The individual furnishes satisfactory evidence to the bureau that his or her prospects for obtaining work in his or her customary occupation within a reasonably short period are good. If that evidence is deemed satisfactory for this purpose, the determination of whether any work is suitable with respect to that individual shall be made in accordance with the definition of suitable work in section 29(6) without regard to the definition specified by subdivision (c).

(e) Notwithstanding subsection (1)(b), work shall not be considered suitable work for an individual if the work does not meet the labor standard provisions required by section 3304(a)(5) of the internal revenue code and section 29(7).

(f) For the purposes of subdivision (a)(ii), an individual is actively engaged in seeking work during any week if both of the following are true:

(i) The individual has engaged in a systematic and sustained effort to obtain work during that week.

(ii) The individual furnishes tangible evidence to the bureau that he or she has engaged in a systematic and sustained effort during that week.

(g) The bureau shall refer any applicant for extended benefits to any suitable work that meets the criteria prescribed in subdivisions (c) and (d).

(h) An individual is not eligible to receive extended benefits with respect to any week of unemployment in his or her eligibility period if that individual has been disqualified for benefits under this act because he or she voluntarily left work, was discharged for misconduct, or failed to accept an offer of or apply for suitable work unless the individual requalified in accordance with a specific provision of this act requiring that the individual be employed subsequent to the week in which the act or discharge occurred that caused the disqualification.

(8) (a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), payment of extended benefits shall not be made to any individual for any week of unemployment that otherwise would have been payable pursuant to an interstate claim filed in any state under the interstate benefit payment plan, if an extended benefit period is not in effect for the week in the state in which the interstate claim is filed.

(b) Subdivision (a) does not apply with respect to the first 2 weeks for which extended benefits are payable, pursuant to an interstate claim, to the individual from the extended benefit account established for the individual.

(9) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1)(b), an individual who established a benefit year under section 46a on or after January 2, 1983, shall be eligible to receive extended benefits only if the individual earned wages in an amount exceeding 40 times the individual's most recent weekly benefit rate during the base period of the benefit year that is used to establish the individual's extended benefit account under subsection (2).

(10) This subsection is effective for weeks of unemployment beginning after October 30, 1982. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, an individual's extended benefit entitlement, with respect to weeks of unemployment beginning after the end of the benefit year, shall be reduced, but not below zero, by the product of the number of weeks for which the individual received any amounts of trade readjustment allowances, paid under the trade act of 1974, Public Law 93-618, within that benefit year, multiplied by the individual's weekly benefit amount for extended benefits.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

Carol Morey Viventi

Secretary of the Senate

Richard J. Brown

Clerk of the House of Representatives

Approved

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Governor