

HOUSE BILL NO. 131

INTRODUCED BY K. SEEKINS-CROWE, G. OVERSTREET, C. SCHOMER, E. TILLEMAN, C. HINKLE, N.

NICOL, F. NAVE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING THE DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS; REVISING THE RATIO OF TOTAL BASE PERIOD RELATIVE TO CERTAIN FULL WEEKS OF BENEFITS; PROVIDING A BENEFIT DURATION FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES; AMENDING SECTION 39-51-2204, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND AN APPLICABILITY DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**Section 1.** Section 39-51-2204, MCA, is amended to read:

**"39-51-2204. Maximum benefit amount.** (1) Any ~~EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (2), ANY~~ otherwise eligible individual is entitled during the individual's benefit year to a total amount of benefits equal to the individual's weekly benefit amount, as calculated according to 39-51-2201, times the number of full weeks of benefit entitlement appearing in the following table in the line which includes the individual's ratio of total base period earnings to the highest quarter of earnings in the base period:

Ratio of Total Base Period Earnings to High Quarter		Full Weeks of Benefits
At Least	But Less Than	
1.00	1.25	8
1.25	1.50	10
1.50	1.75	12
1.75	2.00	14
2.00	2.25	16
2.25	2.50	18
2.50	2.75	20

1           (2)       FOR JOB-ATTACHED CLAIMANTS, UNION-ATTACHED CLAIMANTS, OR CLAIMANTS THAT ARE UNEMPLOYED  
2       RESULTING FROM A MASS LAYOFF AS DEFINED BY THE FEDERAL WORKER ADJUSTMENT AND RETRAINING NOTIFICATION  
3       ACT, 29 U.S.C. 2101(A)(3), ANY OTHERWISE ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL IS ENTITLED DURING THE INDIVIDUAL'S BENEFIT YEAR  
4       TO A TOTAL AMOUNT OF BENEFITS EQUAL TO THE INDIVIDUAL'S WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT, AS CALCULATED ACCORDING  
5       TO 39-51-2201, TIMES THE NUMBER OF FULL WEEKS OF BENEFIT ENTITLEMENT APPEARING IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE IN  
6       THE LINE WHICH INCLUDES THE INDIVIDUAL'S RATIO OF TOTAL BASE PERIOD EARNINGS TO THE HIGHEST QUARTER OF  
7       EARNINGS IN THE BASE PERIOD:

"

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 4 5, 2025.

NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Applicability.** [This act] applies to unemployment insurance claims filed  
on or after July 4 5, 2025.

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