

By: Representatives Cameron, Moss, Nicholson To: Labor

HOUSE BILL NO. 700

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 71-5-503, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO INCREASE THE WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT PAID TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS
3 UNDER THE UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION LAWS; AND FOR RELATED
4 PURPOSES.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

6 SECTION 1. Section 71-5-503, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 71-5-503. (1) An individual's weekly benefit amount for a
9 benefit year effective prior to October 1, 1983, shall be
10 one-twenty-sixth (1/26) of his total wages for insured work paid
11 during that quarter of his base period in which such total wages
12 were highest, computed to the next higher multiple of One Dollar
13 (\$1.00), if not a multiple of One Dollar (\$1.00); and for a
14 benefit year effective on or after October 1, 1983, shall be
15 one-twenty-sixth (1/26) of his total wages for insured work paid
16 during that quarter of his base period in which such total wages
17 were highest, computed to the next lower multiple of One Dollar
18 (\$1.00), if not a multiple of One Dollar (\$1.00).

19 On or before June 15 of each year, the total wages reported
20 on contribution reports for the preceding calendar year shall be
21 divided by the average monthly number of insured workers
22 (determined by dividing the total insured workers reported on
23 contribution reports pursuant to the regulations of the commission
24 for the preceding year by twelve (12)). The average annual wage
25 thus obtained shall be divided by fifty-two (52) and the average
26 weekly wage thus determined rounded to the nearest cent. Sixty
27 percent (60%) of this amount, rounded to the nearest dollar, shall

28 constitute the maximum "weekly benefit amount" paid to any
29 individual whose benefit year commences on or after July 1 of such
30 year and prior to July 1 of the next following year; provided,
31 however, that the maximum weekly benefit amount for the individual
32 shall be Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00). The minimum weekly
33 benefit amount for the individual shall be Thirty Dollars
34 (\$30.00). If an individual's weekly benefit amount would compute
35 to less than the said minimum, then such individual would be
36 entitled to no benefits.

37 An individual's weekly benefit amount, as determined at the
38 beginning of his benefit year, shall constitute his weekly benefit
39 amount throughout such benefit year.

40 (2) The weekly benefit amount, as determined in subsection
41 (1) of this section, shall be increased by Ten Dollars (\$10.00) in
42 the 2001 benefit year and by an additional Ten Dollars (\$10.00) in
43 the 2002 benefit year.

44 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
45 and after July 1, 2001.