

By: Representative Grist

To: Labor

HOUSE BILL NO. 1240

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 71-5-509, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO PROVIDE THAT SWEET POTATO FARMING SHALL BE CLASSIFIED AS A  
3 SEASONAL INDUSTRY FOR PURPOSES OF UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION; AND  
4 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 71-5-509, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 71-5-509. (1) For the purposes of this section, cotton  
9 ginning, sweet potato farming and professional baseball only are  
10 classified as seasonal industries.

11 (2) The term "seasonal worker" means an individual who is  
12 employed in a seasonal industry, and who has base period wages  
13 paid on and after July 1, 1983, in such seasonal industry, except  
14 that the term shall not include workers in such industry where  
15 employment continues substantially throughout the year. Any  
16 individual who has earnings in a seasonal industry having a  
17 seasonal operating period within the limits shown in the first  
18 column at the end of this subsection, and who has base period  
19 wages earned in such seasonal industry in the nonoperating season  
20 of such seasonal industry in an amount equal to the amount  
21 specified on the corresponding line of the second column at the  
22 end of this subsection, shall be considered as having employment  
23 which continues substantially throughout the year and shall not be  
24 considered a seasonal worker.

25	Operating Period of	Wages Earned in Seasonal Industry
26	Seasonal Industry	During Nonoperating Period
27	27-36 Weeks	24 Times Weekly Benefit Amount

28                   6-26 Weeks                   30 Times Weekly Benefit Amount

29           (3) The commission shall prescribe fair and reasonable  
30 general rules consistent with this chapter which are applicable to  
31 seasonal workers for determining the period or periods during  
32 which benefits shall be payable to them. The commission may  
33 prescribe fair and reasonable general rules with respect to such  
34 other matters relating to benefits for seasonal workers as the  
35 commission finds necessary and consistent with the policy and  
36 purposes of this chapter.

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