To: Labor

MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION 2003

By: Representative Grist

HOUSE BILL NO. 1356

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

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

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

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operating Period of Wages Earned in Seasonal Industry</th>
<th>Wages Earned in Seasonal Industry During Nonoperating Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27-36 Weeks</td>
<td>24 Times Weekly Benefit Amount</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-26 Weeks</td>
<td>30 Times Weekly Benefit Amount</td>
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ST: Unemployment compensation; sweet potato farming shall be classified as seasonal industry.

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

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2003.