

By: Representative Franks

To: Labor; Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1540

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 71-5-503, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO INCREASE UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS OVER A FOUR-YEAR
3 PERIOD; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

7 71-5-503. An individual's weekly benefit amount for a
8 benefit year shall be one-twenty-sixth (1/26) of his total wages
9 for insured work paid during that quarter of his base period in
10 which such total wages were highest, computed to the next lower
11 multiple of One Dollar (\$1.00), if not a multiple of One Dollar
12 (\$1.00).

13 On or before June 15 of each year, the total wages reported
14 on contribution reports for the preceding calendar year shall be
15 divided by the average monthly number of insured workers
16 (determined by dividing the total insured workers reported on
17 contribution reports pursuant to the regulations of the commission
18 for the preceding year by twelve (12)). The average annual wage
19 thus obtained shall be divided by fifty-two (52) and the average
20 weekly wage thus determined rounded to the nearest cent. Sixty
21 percent (60%) of this amount, rounded to the nearest dollar, shall
22 constitute the maximum "weekly benefit amount" paid to any
23 individual whose benefit year commences on or after July 1 of such
24 year and prior to July 1 of the next following year; except that
25 the maximum weekly benefit amount for the individual shall not
26 exceed:

27 (a) Two Hundred Ten Dollars (\$210.00) for any benefit
28 year that begins on or after July 1, 2002;

29 (b) Two Hundred Twenty-five Dollars (\$225.00) for any
30 benefit year that begins on or after July 1, 2005;

31 (c) Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) for any benefit
32 year that begins on or after July 1, 2006; and

33 (d) Two Hundred Seventy-five Dollars (\$275.00) for any
34 benefit year that begins on or after July 1, 2008.

35 The minimum weekly benefit amount for the individual shall be
36 Thirty Dollars (\$30.00). If an individual's weekly benefit amount
37 would compute to less than the said minimum, then such individual
38 would be entitled to no benefits.

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

42 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
43 and after July 1, 2005.