

By: Representative Franks

To: Labor; Appropriations

## HOUSE BILL NO. 801

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, 2006;

31           (c) Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) for any benefit  
32 year that begins on or after July 1, 2007; 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, 2006.