

By: Senator(s) Robertson

To: Labor

SENATE BILL NO. 2452

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 71-5-503, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF THE WEEKLY BENEFIT PAID TO
3 INDIVIDUALS UNDER THE MISSISSIPPI UNEMPLOYMENT SECURITY LAW; AND
4 FOR RELATED 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. An individual's weekly benefit amount for a
9 benefit year shall be one-twenty-sixth (1/26) of his total wages
10 for insured work paid during that quarter of his base period in
11 which such total wages were highest, computed to the next lower
12 multiple of One Dollar (\$1.00), if not a multiple of One Dollar
13 (\$1.00).

14 On or before June 15 of each year, the total wages reported
15 on contribution reports for the preceding calendar year shall be
16 divided by the average monthly number of insured workers
17 (determined by dividing the total insured workers reported on
18 contribution reports pursuant to the regulations of the commission
19 for the preceding year by twelve (12)). The average annual wage
20 thus obtained shall be divided by fifty-two (52) and the average
21 weekly wage thus determined rounded to the nearest cent. Sixty
22 percent (60%) of this amount, rounded to the nearest dollar, shall
23 constitute the maximum "weekly benefit amount" paid to any
24 individual whose benefit year commences on or after July 1 of such
25 year and prior to July 1 of the next following year; * * *
26 however, * * * the * * * maximum weekly benefit amount shall not
27 exceed Two Hundred Ten Dollars (\$210.00) for any benefit year that
28 begins on or after July 1, 2002, and shall not exceed Two Hundred

29 Twenty Dollars (\$220.00) for any benefit year that begins on or
30 after thirty (30) days after the effective date of this act. The
31 minimum weekly benefit amount for the individual shall be Thirty
32 Dollars (\$30.00). If an individual's weekly benefit amount would
33 compute to less than the said minimum, then such individual would
34 be entitled to no benefits.

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

38 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
39 and after its passage.