

By: Representative Hines

To: Workforce Development;  
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 555

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 71-5-503, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO REVISE THE MINIMUM WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT FOR AN INDIVIDUAL THAT  
3 RECEIVES UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION  
4 71-5-505, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, FOR THE PURPOSE OF POSSIBLE  
5 AMENDMENT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

9 71-5-503. (1) An individual's weekly benefit amount for a  
10 benefit year shall be one-twenty-sixth (1/26) of his total wages  
11 for insured work paid during that quarter of his base period in  
12 which such total wages were highest, computed to the next lower  
13 multiple of One Dollar (\$1.00), if not a multiple of One Dollar  
14 (\$1.00).

15 (2) (a) On or before June 15 of each year, the total wages  
16 reported on contribution reports for the preceding calendar year  
17 shall be divided by the average monthly number of insured workers  
18 (determined by dividing the total insured workers reported on  
19 contribution reports pursuant to the regulations of the department



20 for the preceding year by twelve (12)). The average annual wage  
21 thus obtained shall be divided by fifty-two (52) and the average  
22 weekly wage thus determined rounded to the nearest cent.

23 (b) Sixty percent (60%) of this amount, rounded to the  
24 nearest dollar, shall constitute the maximum "weekly benefit  
25 amount" paid to any individual whose benefit year commences on or  
26 after July 1 of such year and prior to July 1 of the next  
27 following year \* \* \*.

28 (c) The minimum weekly benefit amount for the  
29 individual shall be \* \* \* the following:

30 (i) For wages totaling over One Hundred Thousand  
31 Dollars (\$100,000.00), One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) per week;

32 (ii) For wages totaling between Seventy-five  
33 Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00) and One Hundred Thousand Dollars  
34 (\$100,000.00), Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750.00) per week;

35 (iii) For wages totaling between Fifty Thousand  
36 Dollars (\$50,000.00) and Seventy-five Thousand Dollars  
37 (\$75,000.00), Six Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$650.00) per week;

38 (iv) For wages totaling between Twenty-five  
39 Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) and Fifty Thousand Dollars  
40 (\$50,000.00), Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) per week; and

41 (v) For wages totaling Twenty-five Thousand  
42 Dollars (\$25,000.00) or less, Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00)  
43 per week.



44           (d) If an individual's weekly benefit amount would  
45 compute to less than the said minimum, then such individual would  
46 be entitled to no benefits.

47           (3) An individual's weekly benefit amount, as determined at  
48 the beginning of his benefit year, shall constitute his weekly  
49 benefit amount throughout such benefit year.

50       \* \* \*

51           **SECTION 2.** Section 71-5-505, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
52 brought forward as follows:

53           71-5-505. (1) For weeks beginning on or after July 1, 1991,  
54 each eligible individual who is totally unemployed or part totally  
55 unemployed in any week shall be paid with respect to such week a  
56 benefit in an amount equal to his weekly benefit amount less that  
57 part of his wages, if any, payable to him with respect to such  
58 week which is in excess of Forty Dollars (\$40.00). Such  
59 individuals must have been totally unemployed or part totally  
60 unemployed for a waiting period of one (1) week during which he  
61 earned less than his weekly benefit amount plus Forty Dollars  
62 (\$40.00). Such benefit for a benefit year effective on or after  
63 October 1, 1983, if not a multiple of One Dollar (\$1.00), shall be  
64 computed to the next lower multiple of One Dollar (\$1.00).  
65 Provided, however, that remuneration for "inactive duty training"  
66 or "unit training assembly" payable to such eligible individual  
67 who is a member of any of the reserve components, or remuneration  
68 for jury duty pursuant to a lawfully issued summons therefor



69 payable to such eligible individual, shall not be considered wages  
70 which serve to reduce the otherwise payable benefit amount.

71 In determining whether an eligible individual is unemployed  
72 during a week, the date of commencing a shift shall determine the  
73 week for which the earnings are deducted.

74 (2) However, the one-week waiting period described herein  
75 shall be waived if the President of the United States declares a  
76 major disaster with regard to individual assistance in accordance  
77 with Section 401 of The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and  
78 Emergency Assistance Act. The department, in its discretion,  
79 shall have the authority to noncharge an employer account for any  
80 benefits paid for unemployment due directly to such disaster, but  
81 only in those counties and/or areas identified by the disaster  
82 area for individual assistance.

83 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
84 and after July 1, 2024.

