

By: Representative Carpenter

To: Workforce Development;
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1032

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 71-5-507, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REVISE THE DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS; TO
3 BRING FORWARD SECTION 71-5-503, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, FOR THE
4 PURPOSE OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 71-5-507, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 71-5-507. * * * (1) The maximum number of weekly benefits a
9 claimant may be eligible for in a benefit year shall depend on the
10 average, seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the state for
11 the three (3) months preceding the month in which they file their
12 first claim of a benefit year. The following defines the maximum
13 number of weekly benefits available based upon the average
14 statewide unemployment rate as determined by the department
15 according to subsection (2) of this section:

16 (a) When the average unemployment rate is five percent
17 (5%) or less, twelve (12) times the weekly benefit amount.



18 (b) When the average unemployment rate is more than
19 five percent (5%) but not more than five and one-half percent
20 (5.5%), thirteen (13) times the weekly benefit amount.

21 (c) When the average unemployment rate is more than
22 five and one-half percent (5.5%) but not more than six percent
23 (6%), fourteen (14) times the weekly benefit amount.

24 (d) When the average unemployment rate is more than six
25 percent (6%) but not more than six and one-half percent (6.5%),
26 fifteen (15) times the weekly benefit amount.

27 (e) When the average unemployment rate is more than six
28 and one-half percent (6.5%) but not more than seven percent (7%),
29 sixteen (16) times the weekly benefit amount.

30 (f) When the average unemployment rate is more than
31 seven percent (7%) but not more than seven and one-half percent
32 (7.5%), seventeen (17) times the weekly benefit amount.

33 (g) When the average unemployment rate is more than
34 seven and one-half percent (7.5%) but not more than eight percent
35 (8%), eighteen (18) times the weekly benefit amount.

36 (h) When the average unemployment rate is more than
37 eight percent (8%) but not more than eight and one-half percent
38 (8.5%), nineteen (19) times the weekly benefit amount.

39 (i) When the average unemployment rate is more than
40 eight and one-half percent (8.5%), twenty (20) times the weekly
41 benefit amount.



42 (2) In calculating the average unemployment rate for the
43 purpose of determining benefit duration in subsection (1), the
44 department shall use publicly reported, seasonally adjusted
45 unemployment rate figures for the state. On a monthly basis, the
46 department shall publish on its website the average unemployment
47 rate and the amount of weekly benefits available for claimants who
48 file an initial claim for unemployment benefits in that month.

49 **SECTION 2.** Section 71-5-503, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
50 brought forward as follows:

51 71-5-503. An individual's weekly benefit amount for a
52 benefit year shall be one-twenty-sixth (1/26) of his total wages
53 for insured work paid during that quarter of his base period in
54 which such total wages were highest, computed to the next lower
55 multiple of One Dollar (\$1.00), if not a multiple of One Dollar
56 (\$1.00).

57 On or before June 15 of each year, the total wages reported
58 on contribution reports for the preceding calendar year shall be
59 divided by the average monthly number of insured workers
60 (determined by dividing the total insured workers reported on
61 contribution reports pursuant to the regulations of the department
62 for the preceding year by twelve (12)). The average annual wage
63 thus obtained shall be divided by fifty-two (52) and the average
64 weekly wage thus determined rounded to the nearest cent. Sixty
65 percent (60%) of this amount, rounded to the nearest dollar, shall
66 constitute the maximum "weekly benefit amount" paid to any



67 individual whose benefit year commences on or after July 1 of such
68 year and prior to July 1 of the next following year; provided
69 however, that the maximum weekly benefit amount shall not exceed
70 Two Hundred Ten Dollars (\$210.00) for any benefit year that begins
71 on or after July 1, 2002, and shall not exceed Two Hundred Thirty
72 Dollars (\$230.00) for any benefit year that begins on or after
73 July 1, 2008, and shall not exceed Two Hundred Thirty-five Dollars
74 (\$235.00) for any benefit year that begins on or after July 1,
75 2009. The minimum weekly benefit amount for the individual shall
76 be Thirty Dollars (\$30.00). If an individual's weekly benefit
77 amount would compute to less than the said minimum, then such
78 individual would be entitled to no benefits.

79 An individual's weekly benefit amount, as determined at the
80 beginning of his benefit year, shall constitute his weekly benefit
81 amount throughout such benefit year.

82 The Mississippi Department of Employment Security, with the
83 assistance of the United States Department of Labor, is directed
84 to generate actuarially sound models for computation of weekly
85 benefit amounts. Such models shall include scenarios for
86 increasing the weekly benefit amounts at each increment from the
87 minimum to the maximum amount and the impact such increments would
88 have on the Unemployment Compensation Fund. Such report shall be
89 provided to the Mississippi Legislature on or before December 31,
90 2008.



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

