

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 119

BY REPRESENTATIVE ROMERO

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 23:1595 and to enact R.S. 23:1606, relative to unemployment  
3 compensation; to provide for the duration of benefits; to provide definitions; to  
4 provide for extended benefits; to provide for the termination of extended benefits;  
5 to provide for the promulgation of rules; to provide for an effective date; and to  
6 provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 23:1595 is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 23:1606 is hereby  
9 enacted to read as follows:

10 §1595. Duration of benefits

11 A. Any otherwise eligible individual shall be entitled during any benefit year  
12 to a total amount of benefits ~~equal to twenty-six~~ up to twenty times his weekly  
13 benefit amount as determined pursuant to R.S. 23:1592 provided that such total  
14 amount of benefits, if not a multiple of one dollar, shall be computed to the nearest  
15 multiple of one dollar. No claimant shall receive a benefit check for any week  
16 beyond the number of weeks computed on his initial claim unless that claimant is  
17 participating in a program providing partial unemployment as set forth in R.S.  
18 23:1472(19)(a) or has been paid wages for part-time or full-time work. Further, if  
19 a base period employer has provided severance pay, which when prorated weekly is  
20 an amount which equals or exceeds the claimant's weekly benefit amount, the  
21 claimant's benefit entitlement computed pursuant to the provisions of this Subsection  
22 shall be reduced by one week for each week of severance pay, provided that no  
23 claimant's entitlement shall be reduced to less than one week.

24 B.(1) The maximum number of weekly benefits a claimant may be eligible  
25 for in a benefit year shall depend on the average of the three most recently published

1           state seasonally adjusted unemployment rates preceding the month in which the  
2           claimant files his first claim for benefits.

3           (2) For all valid unemployment compensation claims submitted, the  
4           maximum duration of benefits available to a claimant shall be based upon the  
5           average unemployment rate as determined by the administrator according to the  
6           following formula:

7           (a) When the average unemployment rate is five percent or less, the  
8           maximum duration of benefits shall be limited to twelve weeks.

9           (b) When the average unemployment rate is greater than five percent but less  
10           than five and one-half percent, the maximum duration of benefits shall be limited to  
11           thirteen weeks.

12           (c) When the average unemployment rate is equal to or greater than five and  
13           one-half percent but less than six percent, the maximum duration of benefits shall be  
14           limited to fourteen weeks.

15           (d) When the average unemployment rate is equal to or greater than six  
16           percent but less than six and one-half percent, the maximum duration of benefits  
17           shall be limited to fifteen weeks.

18           (e) When the average unemployment rate is equal to or greater than six and  
19           one-half percent but less than seven percent, the maximum duration of benefits shall  
20           be limited to sixteen weeks.

21           (f) When the average unemployment rate is equal to or greater than seven  
22           percent but less than seven and one-half percent, the maximum duration of benefits  
23           shall be limited to seventeen weeks.

24           (g) When the average unemployment rate is equal to or greater than seven  
25           and one-half percent but less than eight percent, the maximum duration of benefits  
26           shall be limited to eighteen weeks.

27           (h) When the average unemployment rate is equal to or greater than eight  
28           percent but less than eight and one-half percent, the maximum duration of benefits  
29           shall be limited to nineteen weeks.



1 with respect to wages or employment, or both, that were not considered in the  
2 original monetary determination in his benefit year. He may subsequently be  
3 determined to be entitled to added regular benefits.

4 (b) His benefit year having expired prior to such week, has no wages, or has  
5 insufficient wages or employment, or both, on the basis of which he could establish  
6 a new benefit year that would include such week if all of the following apply:

7 (i) He has no right to unemployment insurance benefits or allowances, as the  
8 case may be, pursuant to the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, 45 U.S.C. §351  
9 et seq., or under such other federal laws as are specified in regulations issued by the  
10 United States secretary of labor.

11 (ii) He has not received and is not seeking unemployment insurance benefits  
12 under the unemployment insurance law of Canada or the United States Virgin  
13 Islands, but if he is seeking such benefits and the appropriate agency finally  
14 determines that he is not entitled to benefits under such law, he shall be considered  
15 an exhaustee if the other provisions of this definition are met. An unemployment  
16 compensation law submitted to the secretary of the United States Virgin Islands for  
17 approval, shall be effective on the day after the day on which the United States  
18 secretary of labor approves such law pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code of 1954,  
19 26 U.S.C. §3304(a).

20 (3) "Extended benefits" means benefits payable to an individual under the  
21 provisions of this Section for weeks of unemployment in his eligibility period.

22 (4) "Extended benefit period" means a period which begins upon exhaustion  
23 of regular unemployment benefits and ends upon the exhaustion or disqualification  
24 for extended benefits pursuant to this Section.

25 (5) "Regular benefits" means benefits payable to an individual in accordance  
26 with this Chapter or in accordance with the unemployment insurance law of any  
27 state, approved by the United States secretary of labor pursuant to the Internal  
28 Revenue Code of 1954, 26 U.S.C. §3304, including benefits payable to federal  
29 civilian employees and to ex-servicemen pursuant to 5 U.S.C. Chapter 85, other than  
30 extended benefits.

1           B. An individual shall be eligible to receive extended benefits with respect  
2           to any week of unemployment in his eligibility period, only if the administrator finds  
3           that with respect to such week all of the following apply:

4                   (1) He is an exhaustee as defined in this Section.

5                   (2) He is enrolled and participating in an approved training program as  
6           provided in R.S. 23:1602 at the time his regular benefits are exhausted.

7           C. The weekly extended benefit amount payable to an individual for a week  
8           of total unemployment in his eligibility period shall be an amount equal to the  
9           weekly benefit amount determined pursuant to R.S. 23:1592 payable to him during  
10          his benefit year with respect to when he last became an exhaustee.

11           D. The total extended benefit amount payable to any eligible individual with  
12          respect to any one benefit year shall be eight times his weekly benefit amount which  
13          was payable to him in accordance with this Chapter for a week of total  
14          unemployment in such benefit year.

15           E. Except when the result would be inconsistent with the provisions of this  
16          Section and as provided in the regulation of the administrator, the provisions of this  
17          Chapter which apply for, or the payment of, regular benefits shall apply to claims for  
18          and the payment of, extended benefits.

19           F. An individual shall not be eligible for extended benefits for any week if  
20          the administrator determines that the individual is no longer enrolled or participating  
21          in the training program or the individual has completed the training program.

22          Section 2. This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2025.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_