

## RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 412 (HB 119)

2024 Regular Session

Romero

New law provides a formula for the duration of weeks that a claimant may receive unemployment benefits and provides the criteria for when a claimant can receive extended benefits.

Prior law provided that any otherwise eligible individual shall be entitled to receive unemployment compensation benefits for 26 weeks during a 12-month period.

New law changes the number of weeks from 26 to 20.

New law provides that the maximum number of weekly benefits a claimant may be eligible for in a benefit year shall depend on the average of the three most recently published state seasonally adjusted unemployment rates preceding the month in which the claimant files his first claim for benefits.

New law provides that for all valid unemployment claims submitted, the maximum duration of benefits available to a claimant will be based upon the average unemployment rate as determined by the secretary of the La. Workforce Commission (LWC)) according to the following formula:

- (1) When the average unemployment rate is 5% or less, the maximum duration of benefits shall be limited to 12 weeks.
- (2) When the average unemployment rate is greater than 5% but less than 5.5%, the maximum duration of benefits shall be limited to 13 weeks.
- (3) When the average unemployment rate is equal to or greater than 5.5% but less than 6%, the maximum duration of benefits shall be limited to 14 weeks.
- (4) When the average unemployment rate is equal to or greater than 6% but less than 6.5%, the maximum duration of benefits shall be limited to 15 weeks.
- (5) When the average unemployment rate is equal to or greater than 6.5% but less than 7%, the maximum duration of benefits shall be limited to 16 weeks.
- (6) When the average unemployment rate is equal to or greater than 7% but less than 7.5%, the maximum duration of benefits shall be limited to 17 weeks.
- (7) When the average unemployment rate is equal to or greater than 7.5% but less than 8%, the maximum duration of benefits shall be limited to 18 weeks.
- (8) When the average unemployment rate is equal to or greater than 8% but less than 8.5%, the maximum duration of benefits shall be limited to 19 weeks.
- (9) When the average unemployment rate is equal to or greater than 8.5%, the maximum duration of benefits shall be limited to 20 weeks.

New law provides that, on a biannual basis, LWC shall publish on its website the maximum number of weekly benefits a claimant may be eligible for in a benefit year for a claimant who has filed an initial claim for unemployment benefits in any week in that month.

New law defines "eligibility period of an individual", "exhaustee", "extended benefits", "extended benefit periods", and "regular benefits".

New law provides that the weekly extended benefit amount payable to an individual for a week of total unemployment during his eligibility period shall be an amount equal to the weekly benefit amount determined pursuant to new law.

New law provides that these weekly extended benefits shall be payable to the individual during his benefit year with respect to when he last became an exhaustee.

New law provides that the individual's total extended benefit amount, with respect to any benefit year, shall be eight times his weekly benefit amount.

New law provides that an individual shall not be eligible for extended benefits for any week if the secretary of LWC, determines that the individual is no longer enrolled or participating in the training program or the individual has completed the training program.

Effective January 1, 2025.

(Amends R.S. 23:1595; Adds R.S. 23:1606)