

1 HB539
2 148900-1
3 By Representatives Warren, Vance, McCampbell and Beckman
4 RFD: Commerce and Small Business
5 First Read: 02-APR-13

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, the weekly maximum
9 benefit an individual can receive as unemployment
10 compensation is \$265.

11 This bill would increase that amount to \$275
12 beginning July 5, 2013, and to \$285 beginning July
13 5, 2014.
14

15 A BILL
16 TO BE ENTITLED
17 AN ACT
18

19 Relating to unemployment compensation; to amend
20 Section 25-4-72, Code of Alabama 1975, to increase the weekly
21 maximum benefit to \$275 beginning July 5, 2013, and to \$285
22 beginning July 5, 2014.

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

24 Section 1. Section 25-4-72, Code of Alabama 1975, is
25 amended to read as follows:

26 "§25-4-72.

1 "(a) For weeks of unemployment during benefit years
2 which begin before the effective date of subsection (b) of
3 this section, an individual's weekly benefit amount shall be
4 as prescribed by this section as amended through July 6, 1997.

5 "(b) For weeks of unemployment during benefit years
6 beginning on or after July 2, 2006, an individual's weekly
7 benefit amount shall be an amount equal to one twenty-sixth of
8 the average of the wages for insured work paid to the
9 individual during the two quarters of his or her base period
10 in which the total wages were the highest; except, that:

11 "(1) If the amount thus derived is not a multiple of
12 one dollar (\$1), fractional parts of one dollar (\$1) in excess
13 of fifty cents (\$.50) shall be rounded to the next higher
14 multiple of one dollar (\$1) and fractional parts of one dollar
15 (\$1) which are fifty cents (\$.50) or less shall be dropped to
16 the next lower multiple of one dollar (\$1).

17 "(2) If the amount derived before the application of
18 subdivision (1) of this subsection is not in excess of
19 forty-four dollars fifty cents (\$44.50), there shall be no
20 weekly benefit amount.

21 "(3) Effective with benefit years beginning on or
22 after July 6, 2008, if the amount thus derived is more than
23 two hundred fifty-four dollars fifty cents (\$254.50), the
24 weekly maximum benefit amount shall be two hundred fifty-five
25 dollars (\$255).

26 "(4) Effective with benefit years beginning on or
27 after July 5, 2009, if the amount thus derived is more than

1 two hundred sixty-four dollars fifty cents (\$264.50), the
2 weekly maximum benefit shall be two hundred sixty-five dollars
3 (\$265).

4 "(5) Effective with benefit years beginning on or
5 after July 5, 2013, if the amount thus derived is more than
6 two hundred seventy-four dollars fifty cents (\$274.50), the
7 weekly maximum benefit shall be two hundred seventy-five
8 dollars (\$275).

9 "(6) Effective with benefit years beginning on or
10 after July 5, 2014, if the amount thus derived is more than
11 two hundred eighty-four dollars fifty cents (\$284.50), the
12 weekly maximum benefit shall be two hundred eighty-five
13 dollars (\$285).

14 "(c) If, as a condition for approval of this section
15 for full tax credit against the tax imposed by the federal
16 Unemployment Tax Act, federal law should require a greater
17 maximum weekly benefit amount than that provided herein, then
18 the maximum weekly benefit amount shall be the minimum
19 required by any such federal law for such approval.

20 "(d) Nothing herein shall serve to deprive any
21 individual of any benefit for which he or she had qualified in
22 any benefit year beginning prior to the effective date of the
23 provisions of subsection (b) of this section.

24 "(e) There is hereby appropriated out of funds made
25 available to this state under Section 903 of the Social
26 Security Act, as amended by Title II, Section 209, "Special
27 Reed Act Transfer in Fiscal Year 2002," of the "Temporary

1 Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 2002," as contained
2 in the "Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act of 2002," an
3 amount not to exceed 15 percent of the funds, or so much
4 thereof to be used as may be necessary, under the direction of
5 the State of Alabama, Department of Industrial Relations, for
6 the expenses incurred for the administration of this state's
7 unemployment compensation law and public employment offices.
8 Notwithstanding the foregoing, the additional amount of up to
9 \$7,940,119 of "Reed Act" funds may be withdrawn from the
10 Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund and used for
11 administrative purposes from May 29, 2008, until September 30,
12 2009. Furthermore, whatever amount is withdrawn during this
13 time period, that amount shall not change the Employer Tax
14 Schedules pursuant to Section 25-4-54 for the calendar year
15 beginning January 1, 2010."

16 Section 2. This act shall become effective
17 immediately following its passage and approval by the
18 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.