

By Senator Brodeur

9-01786A-21

20211906\_\_

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to reemployment assistance; amending  
3       s. 443.111, F.S.; increasing the weekly benefit  
4       amounts an individual may receive; increasing the cap  
5       on the total benefit amount an individual is entitled  
6       to receive during a benefit year; reenacting ss.  
7       443.041(2)(b) and 443.1116(6) and (8)(a), F.S.,  
8       relating to fees and short-time compensation,  
9       respectively, to incorporate the amendments made to s.  
10      443.111, F.S., in references thereto; providing an  
11      effective date.

12  
13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

14  
15       Section 1. Subsection (3) and paragraph (b) of subsection  
16      (5) of section 443.111, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:  
17      443.111 Payment of benefits.—

18      (3) WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT.—An individual's "weekly benefit  
19      amount" is an amount equal to one twenty-sixth of the total  
20      wages for insured work paid during that quarter of the base  
21      period in which the total wages paid were the highest, but not  
22      less than \$100 ~~\$32~~ or more than \$375 ~~\$275~~. The weekly benefit  
23      amount, if not a multiple of \$1, is rounded downward to the  
24      nearest full dollar amount. The maximum weekly benefit amount in  
25      effect at the time the claimant establishes an individual weekly  
26      benefit amount is the maximum benefit amount applicable  
27      throughout the claimant's benefit year.

28      (5) DURATION OF BENEFITS.—

29      (b) Each otherwise eligible individual is entitled during

9-01786A-21

20211906\_\_

30 any benefit year to a total amount of benefits equal to 25  
31 percent of the total wages in his or her base period, not to  
32 exceed \$8,625 ~~\$6,325~~ or the product arrived at by multiplying  
33 the weekly benefit amount with the number of weeks determined in  
34 paragraph (c), whichever is less. However, the total amount of  
35 benefits, if not a multiple of \$1, is rounded downward to the  
36 nearest full dollar amount. These benefits are payable at a  
37 weekly rate no greater than the weekly benefit amount.

38 Section 2. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment  
39 made by this act to section 443.111, Florida Statutes, in a  
40 reference thereto, paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section  
41 443.041, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

42 443.041 Waiver of rights; fees; privileged communications.—

43 (2) FEES.—

44 (b) An attorney at law representing a claimant for benefits  
45 in any district court of appeal of this state or in the Supreme  
46 Court of Florida is entitled to counsel fees payable by the  
47 department as set by the court if the petition for review or  
48 appeal is initiated by the claimant and results in a decision  
49 awarding more benefits than provided in the decision from which  
50 appeal was taken. The amount of the fee may not exceed 50  
51 percent of the total amount of regular benefits permitted under  
52 s. 443.111(5) (b) during the benefit year.

53 Section 3. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment  
54 made by this act to section 443.111, Florida Statutes, in a  
55 reference thereto, subsection (6) and paragraph (a) of  
56 subsection (8) of section 443.1116, Florida Statutes, is  
57 reenacted to read:

58 443.1116 Short-time compensation.—

9-01786A-21

20211906\_\_

59           (6) WEEKLY SHORT-TIME COMPENSATION BENEFIT AMOUNT.—The  
60 weekly short-time compensation benefit amount payable to an  
61 individual is equal to the product of her or his weekly benefit  
62 amount as provided in s. 443.111(3) and the ratio of the number  
63 of normal weekly hours of work for which the employer would not  
64 compensate the individual to the individual's normal weekly  
65 hours of work. The benefit amount, if not a multiple of \$1, is  
66 rounded downward to the next lower multiple of \$1.

67           (8) EFFECT OF SHORT-TIME COMPENSATION BENEFITS RELATING TO  
68 THE PAYMENT OF REGULAR AND EXTENDED BENEFITS.—

69           (a) The short-time compensation benefits paid to an  
70 individual shall be deducted from the total benefit amount  
71 established for that individual in s. 443.111(5).

72           Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.