

By Senator Pizzo

38-01922-21

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to unemployment compensation; amending  
3       s. 443.111, F.S.; increasing the weekly benefit  
4       amounts an individual may receive; conforming  
5       provisions to changes made by the act; reenacting ss.  
6       443.041(2)(b) and 443.1116(6), (7), and (8)(a), F.S.,  
7       relating to fees and short-term compensation,  
8       respectively, to incorporate the amendments made to s.  
9       443.111, F.S., in references thereto; providing an  
10      effective date.

11  
12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

13  
14       Section 1. Subsection (3) and paragraph (b) of subsection  
15       (5) of section 443.111, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

16       443.111 Payment of benefits.—

17       (3) WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT.—An individual's "weekly benefit  
18       amount" is an amount equal to one twenty-sixth of the total  
19       wages for insured work paid during that quarter of the base  
20       period in which the total wages paid were the highest, but not  
21       less than \$32 or more than the product of the Florida minimum  
22       wage as defined in s. 448.109(1) multiplied by 40 ~~\$275~~. The  
23       weekly benefit amount, if not a multiple of \$1, is rounded  
24       downward to the nearest full dollar amount. The maximum weekly  
25       benefit amount in effect at the time the claimant establishes an  
26       individual weekly benefit amount is the maximum benefit amount  
27       applicable throughout the claimant's benefit year.

28       (5) DURATION OF BENEFITS.—

29       (b) Each otherwise eligible individual is entitled during

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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 ~~\$6,325~~ or the product arrived at by multiplying the  
33 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, subsections (6) and (7) and paragraph (a) of  
56 subsection (8) of section 443.1116, Florida Statutes, are  
57 reenacted to read:

58 443.1116 Short-time compensation.—

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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 (7) TOTAL SHORT-TIME COMPENSATION BENEFIT AMOUNT.—An  
68 individual may not be paid benefits under this section in any  
69 benefit year for more than the maximum entitlement provided in  
70 s. 443.111(5), and an individual may not be paid short-time  
71 compensation benefits for more than 26 weeks in any benefit  
72 year.

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

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

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