

1 SENATE BILL NO. 428

2 INTRODUCED BY D. HARRINGTON, BOHLINGER, BUZZAS, CARNEY, CHRISTIAENS, CLANCY,
 3 COCCHIARELLA, CYR, DOHERTY, ELLINGSON, ERICKSON, FRANKLIN, FRITZ, GALLIK, GALVIN-
 4 HALCRO, GOLIE, JACOBSON, JENT, JERGESON, JUNEAU, KAUFMANN, KEANE, KITZENBERG,
 5 LASLOVICH, LEE, LENHART, LINDEEN, MANGAN, MATTHEWS, MCCARTHY, MUSGROVE, NELSON,
 6 NEWMAN, PEASE, RASER, ROUSH, SCHMIDT, SHEA, STONINGTON, TESTER, WANZENRIED

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 8 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT INCREASING THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE MAXIMUM
 9 WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT FROM 60 PERCENT TO ~~66~~ 63 PERCENT OF THE AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE;
 10 AMENDING SECTION 39-51-2201, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND AN APPLICABILITY
 11 DATE."

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 13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

14
 15 **Section 1.** Section 39-51-2201, MCA, is amended to read:

16 **"39-51-2201. Weekly benefit amount -- determination of average weekly wage.** ~~(1) For claims~~
 17 ~~filed before July 7, 1985, an eligible individual's weekly benefit amount shall be the total base period~~
 18 ~~wages divided by the number of weeks of covered employment times 50%. The weekly benefit amount,~~
 19 ~~if not a multiple of \$1, must be rounded to the nearest lower full dollar amount. However, such amount~~
 20 ~~shall not be less than the minimum or more than the maximum weekly benefit amount. For claims effective~~
 21 ~~July 7, 1985, and filed before July 7, 1991, an individual's weekly benefit amount shall be the total base~~
 22 ~~period wages divided by the number of weeks of covered employment times 49%. The weekly benefit~~
 23 ~~amount, if not a multiple of \$1, must be rounded to the nearest lower full dollar amount. However, such~~
 24 ~~amount shall not be less than the minimum or more than the maximum weekly benefit amount.~~

25 ~~———(2)(1) For claims filed on or after July 7, 1991, an~~ An individual's weekly benefit amount must
 26 be an amount equal to 1% of the total base period wages or equal to 1.9% of the total wages paid in the
 27 2 calendar quarters in which wages were the highest during the base period. The weekly benefit amount,
 28 if not a multiple of \$1, must be rounded to the nearest lower full dollar amount. However, the amount may
 29 not be less than the minimum or more than the maximum weekly benefit amount.

30 ~~(3)(2)~~ (2) On or before May 31 of each year, the total wages paid by all employers as reported on

1 contribution reports submitted on or before ~~such that~~ such date for the preceding calendar year ~~shall~~ must be
2 divided by the average monthly number of individuals employed during the same preceding calendar year
3 as reported on ~~such the~~ the contribution reports. The amount ~~thus~~ obtained is the average annual wage. The
4 average annual wage divided by 52, rounded to the nearest cent, is the average weekly wage. ~~Sixty~~
5 ~~percent~~ The maximum weekly benefit amount is 66% 63% of the average weekly wage ~~shall constitute~~
6 ~~the maximum weekly benefit amount and shall apply~~ must be applied to all maximum weekly benefit
7 amount claims for benefits filed to establish a benefit year commencing on or after July 1 of the same
8 year, ~~except that the maximum weekly benefit amount for benefit years commencing on or after July 1,~~
9 ~~1984, through January 3, 1987, is the amount calculated under this subsection after January 1, 1984,~~
10 ~~and on or before May 31, 1984. Such~~ The maximum weekly benefit amount, if not a multiple of \$1, ~~shall~~
11 must be computed to the nearest lower full dollar amount.

12 ~~(4)(3)~~ (3) The minimum weekly benefit amount ~~shall~~ must be 15% of the average weekly wage. The
13 minimum weekly benefit amount, if not a multiple of \$1, ~~shall~~ must be computed to the nearest lower full
14 dollar amount."

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16 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date -- applicability. [This act] is effective July 1, 2001, and
17 applies to claims for benefits filed on or after July 1, 2001.

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