

HOUSE BILL NO. 131

INTRODUCED BY K. SEEKINS-CROWE, G. OVERSTREET, C. SCHOMER, E. TILLEMAN, C. HINKLE, N.  
NICOL, F. NAVE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING THE DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE  
BENEFITS; REVISING THE RATIO OF TOTAL BASE PERIOD RELATIVE TO CERTAIN FULL WEEKS OF  
BENEFITS; PROVIDING A BENEFIT DURATION FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES; AMENDING SECTION 39-51-  
2204, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND AN APPLICABILITY DATE."

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

**Section 1.** Section 39-51-2204, MCA, is amended to read:

**"39-51-2204. Maximum benefit amount.** (1) Any ~~EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (2), ANY~~  
otherwise eligible individual is entitled during the individual's benefit year to a total amount of benefits equal to  
the individual's weekly benefit amount, as calculated according to 39-51-2201, times the number of full weeks  
of benefit entitlement appearing in the following table in the line which includes the individual's ratio of total  
base period earnings to the highest quarter of earnings in the base period:

| Ratio of Total Base Period<br>Earnings to High Quarter |               | Full Weeks<br>of Benefits |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| At Least                                               | But Less Than |                           |
| 1.00                                                   | 1.25          | 8                         |
| 1.25                                                   | 1.50          | 10                        |
| 1.50                                                   | 1.75          | 12                        |
| 1.75                                                   | 2.00          | 14                        |
| 2.00                                                   | 2.25          | 16                        |
| 2.25                                                   | 2.50          | 18                        |
| 2.50                                                   | 2.75          | 20                        |

|      |       |    |
|------|-------|----|
| 2.75 | 3.00  | 22 |
| 3.00 | ..... | 24 |

(2) FOR JOB-ATTACHED CLAIMANTS, UNION-ATTACHED CLAIMANTS, OR CLAIMANTS THAT ARE UNEMPLOYED  
RESULTING FROM A MASS LAYOFF AS DEFINED BY THE FEDERAL WORKER ADJUSTMENT AND RETRAINING NOTIFICATION  
ACT, 29 U.S.C. 2101(A)(3), ANY OTHERWISE ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL IS ENTITLED DURING THE INDIVIDUAL'S BENEFIT YEAR  
TO A TOTAL AMOUNT OF BENEFITS EQUAL TO THE INDIVIDUAL'S WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT, AS CALCULATED ACCORDING  
TO 39-51-2201, TIMES THE NUMBER OF FULL WEEKS OF BENEFIT ENTITLEMENT APPEARING IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE IN  
THE LINE WHICH INCLUDES THE INDIVIDUAL'S RATIO OF TOTAL BASE PERIOD EARNINGS TO THE HIGHEST QUARTER OF  
EARNINGS IN THE BASE PERIOD:

RATIO OF TOTAL BASE PERIOD

| <u>EARNINGS TO HIGH QUARTER</u> |                      | <u>FULL WEEKS</u>  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| <u>AT LEAST</u>                 | <u>BUT LESS THAN</u> | <u>OF BENEFITS</u> |
| <u>1.00</u>                     | <u>1.25</u>          | <u>8</u>           |
| <u>1.25</u>                     | <u>1.50</u>          | <u>10</u>          |
| <u>1.50</u>                     | <u>1.75</u>          | <u>12</u>          |
| <u>1.75</u>                     | <u>2.00</u>          | <u>14</u>          |
| <u>2.00</u>                     | <u>2.25</u>          | <u>16</u>          |
| <u>2.25</u>                     | <u>2.50</u>          | <u>18</u>          |
| <u>2.50</u>                     | <u>2.75</u>          | <u>20</u>          |
| <u>2.75</u>                     | <u>3.00</u>          | <u>22</u>          |
| <u>3.00</u>                     | <u>.....</u>         | <u>24</u>          |

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**NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 4 5, 2025.

NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Applicability.** [This act] applies to unemployment insurance claims filed on or after July 15, 2025.

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