WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION, 1987

ENROLLED

HOUSE BILL No. 2727

(By Delayer MR. Speaker,	MR. Chambers Delegate Swann
[BY Request of +	he Executive]
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Passed MARCH 14	1987
In Effect July 1, 19	7 <i>87</i> 1203190

ENROLLED H. B. 2727

(By Mr. Speaker, Mr. Chambers and Delegate Swann) [By request of the Executive]

[Passed March 14, 1987; in effect July 1, 1987.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact section three, article one, chapter twenty-one-a of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended; to amend and reenact sections ten-b and seventeen, article five; sections one and fifteen, article six; and section eleven, article seven of said chapter, all relating to unemployment compensation.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That section three, article one, chapter twenty-one-a of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended and reenacted; that sections ten-b and seventeen, article five of said chapter be amended and reenacted; that sections one and fifteen, article six; and section eleven, article seven of said chapter be amended and reenacted, all to read as follows:

ARTICLE 1. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY.

§21A-1-3. Definitions.

- 1 As used in this chapter, unless the context clearly 2 requires otherwise:
- 2 requires otherwise.
- 3 "Administration fund" means the employment secur-
- 4 ity administration fund, from which the administrative
- 5 expenses under this chapter shall be paid.
- 6 "Annual payroll" means the total amount of wages for

7 employment paid by an employer during a twelve-8 month period ending with June thirty of any calendar

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"Average annual payroll" means the average of the last three annual payrolls of an employer.

"Base period" means the first four out of the last five completed calendar quarters immediately preceding the first day of the individual benefit year.

"Base period employer" means any employer who in the base period for any benefit year paid wages to an individual who filed claim for unemployment compensation within such benefit year.

"Base period wages" means wages paid to an individual during the base period by all his base period employers.

"Benefit year" with respect to an individual means the fifty-two-week period beginning with the first day of the calendar week in which a valid claim is effective, and thereafter the fifty-two-week period beginning with the first day of the calendar week in which such individual next files a valid claim for benefits after the termination of his last preceding benefit year; however, if a claim is effective on the first day of a quarter, the benefit year will be fifty-three weeks, in order to prevent an overlapping of the base period wages. An initial claim for benefits filed in accordance with the provisions of this chapter shall be deemed to be a valid claim within the purposes of this definition if the individual has been paid wages in his base period sufficient to make him eligible for benefits under the provisions of this chapter.

37 "Benefits" means the money payable to an individual with respect to his unemployment.

"Board" means board of review.

"Calendar quarter" means the period of three consecutive calendar months ending on March thirty-one, June thirty, September thirty or December thirty-one, or the equivalent thereof as the commissioner may by regulation prescribe.

45 "Commissioner" means the employment security 46 commissioner.

"Computation date" means June thirty of the year immediately preceding the January one on which an employer's contribution rate becomes effective.

"Employing unit" means an individual, or type of organization, including any partnership, association, trust estate, joint-stock company, insurance company, corporation (domestic or foreign), state or political subdivision thereof, or their instrumentalities, as provided in paragraph (b), subdivision (9) of the definition of "employment" in this section, institution of higher education, or the receiver, trustee in bankruptcy, trustee or successor thereof, or the legal representative of a deceased person, which has on January first, one thousand nine hundred thirty-five, or subsequent thereto, had in its employ one or more individuals performing service within this state.

"Employer" means:

- (1) Until January one, one thousand nine hundred seventy-two, any employing unit which for some portion of a day, not necessarily simultaneously, in each of twenty different calendar weeks, which weeks need not be consecutive, within either the current calendar year, or the preceding calendar year, has had in employment four or more individuals irrespective of whether the same individuals were or were not employed on each of such days;
- (2) Any employing unit which is or becomes a liable employer under any federal unemployment tax act;
- (3) Any employing unit which has acquired or acquires the organization, trade or business, or substantially all the assets thereof, of an employing unit which at the time of such acquisition was an employer subject to this chapter;
- (4) Any employing unit which, after December thirtyone, one thousand nine hundred sixty-three, and until January one, one thousand nine hundred seventy-two, in any one calendar quarter, in any calendar year, has in

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- employment four or more individuals and has paid wages for employment in the total sum of five thousand dollars or more, or which, after such date, has paid wages for employment in any calendar year in the sum total of twenty thousand dollars or more;
 - (5) Any employing unit which, after December thirtyone, one thousand nine hundred sixty-three, and until January one, one thousand nine hundred seventy-two, in any three-week period, in any calendar year, has in employment ten or more individuals;
 - (6) For the effective period of its election pursuant to section three, article five of this chapter, any employing unit which has elected to become subject to this chapter;
 - (7) Any employing unit which, after December thirtyone, one thousand nine hundred seventy-one, (i) in any
 calendar quarter in either the current or preceding
 calendar year paid for service in employment wages of
 one thousand five hundred dollars or more, or (ii) for
 some portion of a day in each of twenty different
 calendar weeks, whether or not such weeks were
 consecutive, in either the current or the preceding
 calendar year had in employment at least one individual
 (irrespective of whether the same individual was in
 employment in each such day) except as provided in
 subdivisions eleven and twelve hereof;
 - (8) Any employing unit for which service in employment, as defined in subdivision (9) of the definition of "employment" in this section, is performed after December thirty-one, one thousand nine hundred seventy-one;
- 114 (9) Any employing unit for which service in employ-115 ment, as defined in subdivision (10) of the definition of 116 "employment" in this section, is performed after 117 December thirty-one, one thousand nine hundred 118 seventy-one;
- 119 (10) Any employing unit for which service in employ-120 ment, as defined in paragraphs (b) and (c) of subdivision 121 (9) of the definition of "employment" in this section, is 122 performed after December thirty-one, one thousand nine

123 hundred seventy-seven;

- 124 (11) Any employing unit for which agricultural labor, 125 as defined in subdivision (12) of the definition of 126 "employment" in this section, is performed after 127 December thirty-one, one thousand nine hundred 128 seventy-seven;
 - (12) Any employing unit for which domestic service in employment, as defined in subdivision (13) of the definition of "employment" in this section, is performed after December thirty-one, one thousand nine hundred seventy-seven.
 - "Employment," subject to the other provisions of this section, means:
 - (1) Service, including service in interstate commerce, performed for wages or under any contract of hire, written or oral, express or implied;
 - (2) Any service performed prior to January one, one thousand nine hundred seventy-two, which was employment as defined in this section prior to such date and, subject to the other provisions of this section, service performed after December thirty-one, one thousand nine hundred seventy-one, by an employee, as defined in section 3306(i) of the Federal Unemployment Tax Act, including service in interstate commerce;
 - (3) Any service performed prior to January one, one thousand nine hundred seventy-two, which was employment as defined in this section prior to such date and, subject to the other provisions of this section, service performed after December thirty-one, one thousand nine hundred seventy-one, including service in interstate commerce, by any officer of a corporation;
 - (4) An individual's entire service, performed within or both within and without this state if: (a) The service is localized in this state or (b) the service is not localized in any state but some of the service is performed in this state and (i) the base of operations, or, if there is no base of operations, then the place from which such service is directed or controlled, is in this state; or (ii) the base of operations or place from which such service is directed

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or controlled is not in any state in which some part of the service is performed but the individual's residence is in this state;

- (5) Service not covered under paragraph four of this subdivision and performed entirely without this state with respect to no part of which contributions are required and paid under an unemployment compensation law of any other state or of the federal government, shall be deemed to be employment subject to this chapter if the individual performing such services is a resident of this state and the commissioner approves the election of the employing unit for whom such services are performed that the entire service of such individual shall be deemed to be employment subject to this chapter;
- (6) Service shall be deemed to be localized within a state, if: (a) The service is performed entirely within such state; or (b) the service is performed both within and without such state, but the service performed without such state is incidental to the individual's service within this state, as, for example, is temporary or transitory in nature or consists of isolated transactions;
- (7) Services performed by an individual for wages shall be deemed to be employment subject to this chapter unless and until it is shown to the satisfaction of the commissioner that: (a) Such individual has been and will continue to be free from control or direction over the performance of such services, both under his contract of service and in fact; and (b) such service is either outside the usual course of the business for which such service is performed or that such service is performed outside of all the places of business of the enterprise for which such service is performed; and (c) such individual is customarily engaged in an independently established trade, occupation, profession or business:
- 199 (8) All service performed by an officer or member of 200 the crew of an American vessel (as defined in section 201 three hundred five of an act of Congress entitled Social

Security Act Amendment of 1946, approved August tenth, one thousand nine hundred forty-six), on or in connection with such vessel, provided that the operating office, from which the operations of such vessel operating on navigable waters within and without the United States is ordinarily and regularly supervised, managed, directed and controlled, is within this state;

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- (9) (a) Service performed after December thirty-one, one thousand nine hundred seventy-one, by an individual in the employ of this state or any of its instrumentalities (or in the employ of this state and one or more other states or their instrumentalities) for a hospital or institution of higher education located in this state: *Provided*, That such service is excluded from "employment" as defined in the Federal Unemployment Tax Act solely by reason of section 3306 (c) (7) of that act and is not excluded from "employment" under subdivision (11) of the exclusion from employment.
- (b) Service performed after December thirty-one, one thousand nine hundred seventy-seven, in the employ of this state or any of its instrumentalities or political subdivisions thereof or any of its instrumentalities or any instrumentality of more than one of the foregoing or any instrumentality of any foregoing and one or more other states or political subdivisions: *Provided*, That such service is excluded from "employment" as defined in the Federal Unemployment Tax Act by section 3306 (c) (7) of that act and is not excluded from "employment" under subdivision (15) of the exclusion from employment in this section; and
- (c) Service performed after December thirty-one, one thousand nine hundred seventy-seven, in the employ of a nonprofit educational institution which is not an institution of higher education;
- (10) Service performed after December thirty-one, one thousand nine hundred seventy-one, by an individual in the employ of a religious, charitable, educational or other organization but only if the following conditions are met:
- 241 (a) The service is excluded from "employment" as

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defined in the Federal Unemployment Tax Act solely by reason of section 3306(c) (8) of that act; and

- (b) The organization had four or more individuals in employment for some portion of a day in each of twenty different weeks, whether or not such weeks were consecutive, within either the current or preceding calendar year, regardless of whether they were employed at the same moment of time;
- (11) Service of an individual who is a citizen of the United States, performed outside the United States after December thirty-one, one thousand nine hundred seventy-one (except in Canada and in the case of Virgin Islands after December thirty-one, one thousand nine hundred seventy-one, and before January one of the year following the year in which the secretary of labor approves for the first time an unemployment insurance law submitted to him by the Virgin Islands for approval) in the employ of an American employer (other than service which is deemed "employment" under the provisions of subdivision (4), (5) or (6) of this definition of "employment" or the parallel provisions of another state's law) if:
- (a) The employer's principal place of business in the United States is located in this state; or
- (b) The employer has no place of business in the United States, but (i) the employer is an individual who is a resident of this state; or (ii) the employer is a corporation which is organized under the laws of this state; or (iii) the employer is a partnership or a trust and the number of the partners or trustees who are residents of this state is greater than the number who are residents of any one other state; or
- (c) None of the criteria of subparagraphs (a) and (b) of this subdivision (11) is met but the employer has elected coverage in this state or, the employer having failed to elect coverage in any state, the individual has filed a claim for benefits, based on such service, under the law of this state.

An "American employer," for purposes of this subdi-

vision (11), means a person who is (i) an individual who is a resident of the United States; or (ii) a partnership if two thirds or more of the partners are residents of the United States; or (iii) a trust, if all of the trustees are residents of the United States; or (iv) a corporation organized under the laws of the United States or of any state:

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- (12) Service performed after December thirty-one, one thousand nine hundred seventy-seven, by an individual in agricultural labor as defined in subdivision (5) of the exclusions from employment in this section when:
- (a) Such service is performed for a person who (i) during any calendar quarter in either the current or the preceding calendar year paid remuneration in cash of twenty thousand dollars or more to individuals employed in agricultural labor, including labor performed by an alien referred to in paragraph (b) of this subdivision (12); or (ii) for some portion of a day in each of twenty different calendar weeks, whether or not such weeks were consecutive, in either the current or the preceding calendar year, employed in agricultural labor, including labor performed by an alien referred to in paragraph (b) of this subdivision (12), ten or more individuals, regardless of whether they were employed at the same moment of time;
- (b) Such service is not performed in agricultural labor if performed before January one, one thousand nine hundred eighty-eight by an individual who is an alien admitted to the United States to perform service in agricultural labor pursuant to sections 214 (c) and 101 (a) (15) (H) of the Immigration and Nationality Act;
- (c) For the purposes of the definition of employment, any individual who is a member of a crew furnished by a crew leader to perform service in agricultural labor for any other person shall be treated as an employee of such crew leader (i) if such crew leader holds a valid certificate of registration under the Farm Labor Contractor Registration Act of 1963; or substantially all the members of such crew operate or maintain tractors, mechanized harvesting or crop-dusting equipment, or

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any other mechanized equipment, which is provided by such crew leader; and (ii) if such individual is not an employee of such other person within the meaning of subdivision (7) of the definition of employer;

- (d) For the purposes of this subdivision (12), in the case of any individual who is furnished by a crew leader to perform service in agricultural labor for any other person and who is not treated as an employee of such crew leader under subparagraph (c) of this subdivision (12), (i) such other person and not the crew leader shall be treated as the employer of such individual; and (ii) such other person shall be treated as having paid cash remuneration to such individual in an amount equal to the amount of cash remuneration paid to such individual by the crew leader (either on his own behalf or on behalf of such other person) for the service in agricultural labor performed for such other person;
- (e) For the purposes of this subdivision (12), the term "crew leader" means an individual who (i) furnishes individuals to perform service in agricultural labor for any other person, (ii) pays (either on his own behalf or on behalf of such other person) the individuals so furnished by him for the service in agricultural labor performed by them, and (iii) has not entered into a written agreement with such other person under which such individual is designated as an employee of such other person;
- (13) The term "employment" shall include domestic service after December thirty-one, one thousand nine hundred seventy-seven, in a private home, local college club or local chapter of a college fraternity or sorority performed for a person who paid cash remuneration of one thousand dollars or more after December thirty-one, one thousand nine hundred seventy-seven, in any calendar quarter in the current calendar year or the preceding calendar year to individuals employed in such domestic service.

Notwithstanding the foregoing definition of "employment," if the services performed during one half or more of any pay period by an employee for the person

employing him constitute employment, all the services of such employee for such period shall be deemed to be employment; but if the services performed during more than one half of any such pay period by an employee for the person employing him do not constitute employment, then none of the services of such employee for such period shall be deemed to be employment.

The term "employment" shall not include:

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- (1) Service performed in the employ of this state or any political subdivision thereof, or any instrumentality of this state or its subdivisions, except as otherwise provided herein until December thirty-one, one thousand nine hundred seventy-seven;
- (2) Service performed directly in the employ of another state, or its political subdivisions, except as otherwise provided in paragraph (a), subdivision (9) of the definition of "employment," until December thirtyone, one thousand nine hundred seventy-seven;
- (3) Service performed in the employ of the United States or any instrumentality of the United States exempt under the constitution of the United States from the payments imposed by this law, except that to the extent that the Congress of the United States shall permit states to require any instrumentalities of the United States to make payments into an unemployment fund under a state unemployment compensation law, all of the provisions of this law shall be applicable to such instrumentalities and to service performed for such instrumentalities in the same manner, to the same extent and on the same terms as to all other employers, employing units, individuals and services: Provided, That if this state shall not be certified for any year by the secretary of labor under section 1603(c) of the federal Internal Revenue Code, the payments required of such instrumentalities with respect to such year shall be refunded by the commissioner from the fund in the same manner and within the same period as is provided in section nineteen, article five of this chapter, with respect to payments erroneously collected;
 - (4) Service performed after June thirty, one thousand

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401 nine hundred thirty-nine, with respect to which unem-402ployment compensation is payable under the Railroad 403 Unemployment Insurance Act and service with respect 404 to which unemployment benefits are payable under an 405unemployment compensation system for maritime 406 employees established by an act of Congress. The 407 commissioner may enter into agreements with the 408 proper agency established under such an act of Congress 409 to provide reciprocal treatment to individuals who, after 410acquiring potential rights to unemployment compensa-411 tion under an act of Congress, or who have, after 412acquiring potential rights to unemployment compensa-413 tion under an act of Congress, acquired rights to benefit 414 under this chapter. Such agreement shall become 415 effective ten days after such publications which shall 416 comply with the general rules of the department;

- 417 (5) Service performed by an individual in agricultural 418 labor, except as provided in subdivision (12) of the 419 definition of "employment" in this section. For purposes 420 of this subdivision (5), the term "agricultural labor" 421 includes all services performed:
- 422 (a) On a farm, in the employ of any person, in 423 connection with cultivating the soil, or in connection 424 with raising or harvesting any agricultural or horticul-425 tural commodity, including the raising, shearing, 426 feeding, caring for, training and management of 427 livestock, bees, poultry, and fur-bearing animals and 428 wildlife;
 - (b) In the employ of the owner or tenant or other operator of a farm, in connection with the operation, management, conservation, improvement or maintenance of such farm and its tools and equipment, or in salvaging timber or clearing land of brush and other debris left by a hurricane, if the major part of such service is performed on a farm;
- 436 (c) In connection with the production or harvesting of 437 any commodity defined as an agricultural commodity in 438 section fifteen (g) of the Agricultural Marketing Act, as 439 amended, or in connection with the ginning of cotton, 440 or in connection with the operation or maintenance of

- ditches, canals, reservoirs or waterways, not owned or operated for profit, used exclusively for supplying and storing water for farming purposes;
- (d) (i) In the employ of the operator of a farm in 444 445 handling, planting, drying, packing, packaging, process-446 ing, freezing, grading, storing or delivering to storage 447 or to market or to a carrier for transportation to market, 448 in its unmanufactured state, any agricultural or horticultural commodity; but only if such operator 449 produced more than one half of the commodity with 450 451 respect to which such service is performed; or (ii) in the 452employ of a group of operators of farms (or a cooperative organization of which such operators are members) in 453454 the performance of service described in clause (i), but 455 only if such operators produced more than one half of 456the commodity with respect to which such service is performed; but the provisions of clauses (i) and (ii) shall 457 not be deemed to be applicable with respect to service 458 459 performed in connection with commercial canning or 460 commercial freezing or in connection with any agricul-461 tural or horticultural commodity after its delivery to a 462 terminal market for distribution for consumption;
- 463 (e) On a farm operated for profit if such service is not 464 in the course of the employer's trade or business or is 465domestic service in a private home of the employer. As 466 used in this subdivision (5), the term "farm" includes stock, dairy, poultry, fruit, fur-bearing animals, truck 467468 farms, plantations, ranches, greenhouses, ranges and nurseries, or other similar land areas or structures used 469470primarily for the raising of any agricultural or horti-471cultural commodities:
- 472 (6) Domestic service in a private home except as 473 provided in subdivision (13) of the definition of "employ-474 ment" in this section;
- 475 (7) Service performed by an individual in the employ 476 of his son, daughter or spouse;
- 477 (8) Service performed by a child under the age of 478 eighteen years in the employ of his father or mother;
- 479 (9) Service as an officer or member of a crew of an

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American vessel, performed on or in connection with such vessel, if the operating office, from which the operations of the vessel operating on navigable waters within or without the United States are ordinarily and regularly supervised, managed, directed and controlled, is without this state;

- (10) Service performed by agents of mutual fund broker-dealers or insurance companies, exclusive of industrial insurance agents, or by agents of investment companies, who are compensated wholly on a commission basis;
- (11) Service performed (i) in the employ of a church or convention or association of churches, or an organization which is operated primarily for religious purposes and which is operated, supervised, controlled or principally supported by a church or convention or association of churches; or (ii) by a duly ordained, commissioned or licensed minister of a church in the exercise of his ministry or by a member of a religious order in the exercise of duties required by such order; or (iii) prior to January one, one thousand nine hundred seventy-eight, in the employ of a school which is not an institution of higher education; or (iv) in a facility conducted for the purpose of carrying out a program of rehabilitation for individuals whose earning capacity is impaired by age or physical or mental deficiency or injury or providing remunerative work for individuals who because of their impaired physical or mental capacity cannot be readily absorbed in the competitive labor market by an individual receiving such rehabilitation or remunerative work; or (v) as part of an unemployment work-relief or work-training program assisted or financed in whole or in part by any federal agency or an agency of a state or political subdivision thereof, by an individual receiving such work relief or work training; or (vi) prior to January one, one thousand nine hundred seventy-eight, for a hospital in a state prison or other state correctional institution by an inmate of the prison or correctional institution, and after December thirty-one, one thousand nine hundred seventy-seven, by an inmate of a custodial or penal

521 institution;

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- (12) Service performed in the employ of a school, college or university, if such service is performed (i) by a student who is enrolled and is regularly attending classes at such school, college or university, or (ii) by the spouse of such a student, if such spouse is advised, at the time such spouse commences to perform such service, that (I) the employment of such spouse to perform such service is provided under a program to provide financial assistance to such student by such school, college or university, and (II) such employment will not be covered by any program of unemployment insurance;
- (13) Service performed by an individual who is enrolled at a nonprofit or public educational institution which normally maintains a regular faculty and curriculum and normally has a regularly organized body of students in attendance at the place where its educational activities are carried on as a student in a full-time program, taken for credit at such institution, which combines academic instruction with work experience, if such service is an integral part of such program, and such institution has so certified to the employer, except that this subdivision shall not apply to service performed in a program established for or on behalf of an employer or group of employers;
- (14) Service performed in the employ of a hospital, if such service is performed by a patient of the hospital, as defined in this section;
- (15) Service in the employ of a governmental entity referred to in subdivision (9) of the definition of "employment" in this section if such service is performed by an individual in the exercise of duties (i) as an elected official; (ii) as a member of a legislative body, or a member of the judiciary, of a state or political subdivision; (iii) as a member of the state national guard or air national guard; (iv) as an employee serving on a temporary basis in case of fire, storm, snow, earthquake, flood or similar emergency; (v) in a position which, under or pursuant to the laws of this state, is designated

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as (I) a major nontenured policy-making or advisory position, or (II) a policy-making or advisory position the performance of the duties of which ordinarily does not require more than eight hours per week.

Notwithstanding the foregoing exclusions from the definition of "employment," services, except agricultural labor and domestic service in a private home, shall be deemed to be in employment if with respect to such services a tax is required to be paid under any federal law imposing a tax against which credit may be taken for contributions required to be paid into a state unemployment compensation fund, or which as a condition for full tax credit against the tax imposed by the Federal Unemployment Tax Act are required to be covered under this chapter.

"Employment office" means a free employment office or branch thereof, operated by this state, or any free public employment office maintained as a part of a state controlled system of public employment offices in any other state.

581 "Fund" means the unemployment compensation fund established by this chapter.

583 "Hospital" means an institution which has been 584 licensed, certified or approved by the state department 585 of health as a hospital.

586 "Institution of higher education" means an educational institution which:

- 588 (1) Admits as regular students only individuals 589 having a certificate of graduation from a high school, 590 or the recognized equivalent of such a certificate;
- 591 (2) Is legally authorized in this state to provide a program of education beyond high school;
- 593 (3) Provides an educational program for which it 594 awards a bachelor's or higher degree, or provides a 595 program which is acceptable for full credit toward such 596 a degree, or provides a program of post-graduate or 597 post-doctoral studies, or provides a program of training 598 to prepare students for gainful employment in a

- 599 recognized occupation; and
- 600 (4) Is a public or other nonprofit institution.
- Notwithstanding any of the foregoing provisions of this definition all colleges and universities in this state are institutions of higher education for purposes of this section.
- 605 "Payments" means the money required to be paid or 606 that may be voluntarily paid into the state unemploy-607 ment compensation fund as provided in article five of 608 this chapter.
- 609 "Separated from employment" means, for the pur-610 poses of this chapter, the total severance, whether by 611 quitting, discharge or otherwise, of the employer-612 employee relationship.
- 613 "State" includes, in addition to the states of the United 614 States, Puerto Rico, District of Columbia and the Virgin 615 Islands.
- "Total and partial unemployment" means:

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- 617 (1) An individual shall be deemed totally unemployed 618 in any week in which such individual is separated from 619 employment for an employing unit and during which he 620 performs no services and with respect to which no wages 621 are payable to him.
 - (2) An individual who has not been separated from employment shall be deemed to be partially unemployed in any week in which due to lack of full-time work wages payable to him are less than his weekly benefit amount plus twenty-five dollars: *Provided*, That said individual must have earnings of at least twenty-six dollars.
 - "Wages" means all remuneration for personal service, including commissions, gratuities customarily received by an individual in the course of employment from persons other than the employing unit, as long as such gratuities equal or exceed an amount of not less than twenty dollars each month and which are required to be reported to the employer by the employee, bonuses and the cash value of all remuneration in any medium

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637 other than cash except for agricultural labor and 638 domestic service: *Provided*, That the term "wages" shall 639 not include:

(1) That part of the remuneration which, after remuneration equal to three thousand dollars has been paid to an individual by an employer with respect to employment during any calendar year, is paid after December thirty-one, one thousand nine hundred thirtynine, and prior to January one, one thousand nine hundred forty-seven, to such individual by such employer with respect to employment during such calendar year; or that part of the remuneration which, after remuneration equal to three thousand dollars with respect to employment after one thousand nine hundred thirty-eight, has been paid to an individual by an employer during any calendar year after one thousand nine hundred forty-six, is paid to such individual by such employer during such calendar year, except that for the purposes of sections one, ten, eleven and thirteen, article six of this chapter, all remuneration earned by an individual in employment shall be credited to the individual and included in his computation of base period wages: Provided, That notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, on and after January one, one thousand nine hundred sixty-two, the term "wages" shall not include:

That part of the remuneration which, after remuneration equal to three thousand six hundred dollars has been paid to an individual by an employer with respect to employment during any calendar year, is paid during any calendar year after one thousand nine hundred sixty-one; and shall not include that part of remuneration which, after remuneration equal to four thousand two hundred dollars is paid during a calendar year after one thousand nine hundred seventy-one; and shall not include that part of remuneration which, after remuneration equal to six thousand dollars is paid during a calendar year after one thousand nine hundred seventy-seven; and shall not include that part of remuneration which, after remuneration equal to eight thousand dollars is paid during a calendar year after one

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thousand nine hundred eighty, to an individual by an employer or his predecessor with respect to employment during any calendar year, is paid to such individual by such employee during such calendar year unless that part of the remuneration is subject to a tax under a federal law imposing a tax against which credit may be taken for contributions required to be paid into a state unemployment fund. For the purposes of this subdivision (1), the term "employment" shall include service constituting employment under any unemployment compensation law of another state; or which as a condition for full tax credit against the tax imposed by the Federal Unemployment Tax Act is required to be covered under this chapter; and, except, that for the purposes of sections one, ten, eleven and thirteen, article six of this chapter, all remuneration earned by an individual in employment shall be credited to the individual and included in his computation of base period wages: Provided, That the remuneration paid to an individual by an employer with respect to employment in another state or other states upon which contributions were required of and paid by such employer under an unemployment compensation law of such other state or states shall be included as a part of the remuneration equal to the amounts of three thousand six hundred dollars or four thousand two hundred dollars or six thousand dollars or eight thousand dollars herein referred to. In applying such limitation on the amount of remuneration that is taxable, an employer shall be accorded the benefit of all or any portion of such amount which may have been paid by its predecessor or predecessors: Provided, however, That if the definition of the term "wages" as contained in section 3306(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 as amended, is amended: (a) Effective prior to January one, one thousand nine hundred sixty-two, to include remuneration in excess of three thousand dollars, or (b) effective on or after January one, one thousand nine hundred sixty-two, to include remuneration in excess of three thousand six hundred dollars, or (c) effective on or after January one, one thousand nine hundred seventy-two, to include remuneration in excess of four thousand two

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hundred dollars, or (d) effective on or after January one, one thousand nine hundred seventy-eight, to include remuneration in excess of six thousand dollars, or (e) effective on or after January one, one thousand nine hundred eighty, to include remuneration in excess of eight thousand dollars, paid to an individual by an employer under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act during any calendar year, wages for the purposes of this definition shall include remuneration paid in a calendar year to an individual by an employer subject to this article or his predecessor with respect to employment during any calendar year up to an amount equal to the amount of remuneration taxable under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act;

- (2) The amount of any payment made after December thirty-one, one thousand nine hundred fifty-two (including any amount paid by an employer for insurance or annuities, or into a fund, to provide for any such payment), to, or on behalf of, an individual in its employ or any of his dependents, under a plan or system established by an employer which makes provision for individuals in its employ generally (or for such individuals and their dependents), or for a class or classes of such individuals (or for a class or classes of such individuals and their dependents), on account of (A) retirement, or (B) sickness or accident disability payments made to an employee under an approved state workers' compensation law, or (C) medical or hospitalization expenses in connection with sickness or accident disability, or (D) death;
- (3) Any payment made after December thirty-one, one thousand nine hundred fifty-two, by an employer to an individual in its employ (including any amount paid by an employer for insurance or annuities, or into a fund, to provide for any such payment) on account of retirement:
- (4) Any payment made after December thirty-one, one thousand nine hundred fifty-two, by an employer on account of sickness or accident disability, or medical or hospitalization expenses in connection with sickness or accident disability, to, or on behalf of, an individual in

761 its employ after the expiration of six calendar months 762 following the last calendar month in which such 763 individual worked for such employer;

- (5) Any payment made after December thirty-one, one thousand nine hundred fifty-two, by an employer to, or on behalf of, an individual in its employ or his beneficiary (A) from or to a trust described in section 401(a) which is exempt from tax under section 501(a) of the Federal Internal Revenue Code at the time of such payments unless such payment is made to such individual as an employee of the trust as remuneration for services rendered by such individual and not as a beneficiary of the trust, or (B) under or to an annuity plan which, at the time of such payment, is a plan described in section 403(a) of the Federal Internal Revenue Code;
 - (6) The payment by an employer of the tax imposed upon and employer under section 3101 of the Federal Internal Revenue Code with respect to remuneration paid to an employee for domestic service in a private home of the employer of agricultural labor;
 - (7) Remuneration paid by an employer after December thirty-one, one thousand nine hundred fifty-two, in any medium other than cash to an individual in its employ for service not in the course of the employer's trade or business;
- (8) Any payment (other than vacation or sick pay) made by an employer after December thirty-one, one thousand nine hundred fifty-two, to an individual in its employ after the month in which he attains the age of sixty-five, if he did not work for the employer in the period for which such payment is made;
- (9) Payments, not required under any contract of hire, made to an individual with respect to his period of training or service in the armed forces of the United States by an employer by which such individual was formerly employed;
- 798 (10) Vacation pay, severance pay or savings plans 799 received by an individual before or after becoming

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totally or partially unemployed but earned prior to 800 801 becoming totally or partially unemployed: Provided, 802 That the term totally or partially unemployed shall not 803 be interpreted to include (1) employees who are on 804 vacation by reason of the request of the employees or 805 their duly authorized agent, for a vacation at a specific 806 time, and which request by the employees or their agent 807 is acceded to by their employer, (2) employees who are 808 on vacation by reason of the employer's request provided 809 they are so informed at least ninety days prior to such 810 vacation, or (3) employees who are on vacation by reason 811 of the employer's request where such vacation is in 812 addition to the regular vacation and the employer 813 compensates such employee at a rate equal to or 814 exceeding their regular daily rate of pay during the 815 vacation period.

Gratuities customarily received by an individual in the course of his employment from persons other than his employing unit shall be treated as wages paid by his employing unit, if accounted for and reported to such employing unit.

The reasonable cash value of remuneration in any medium other than cash shall be estimated and determined in accordance with rules prescribed by the commissioner, except for remuneration other than cash for services performed in agricultural labor and domestic service.

"Week" means a calendar week, ending at midnight Saturday, or the equivalent thereof, as determined in accordance with the regulations prescribed by the commissioner.

"Weekly benefit rate" means the maximum amount of benefit an eligible individual will receive for one week of total unemployment.

"Year" means a calendar year or the equivalent thereof, as determined by the commissioner.

ARTICLE 5. EMPLOYER COVERAGE AND RESPONSIBILITY.

§21A-5-10b. Transfer of business.

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If a subject employer shall transfer his entire organization, trade or business, or substantially all the assets thereof, to another employer, the commissioner shall combine the contribution records and the benefit experience records of the transferring and acquiring employers. The acquiring employer's contribution rate for the remainder of the calendar year shall not be affected by the transfer but such rate shall apply to the whole of his business, including the portion acquired by the transfer, through the following December thirtyfirst. If a subject employer shall make such transfer to an employing unit which is not an employer on the date of the transfer, such subject employer's rate shall continue as the rate of the acquiring employing unit until the next effective rate date. If an employing unit acquires simultaneously the entire organization, trade or business, or substantially all the assets thereof, of two or more covered employers, the successor shall be assigned as a contribution rate the then current rate of the transferring employer which had, in the calendar quarter immediately preceding the date of the transfer, the higher or highest payroll. If a subject employer shall transfer his entire organization, trade or business, or substantially all the assets thereof, to two or more employers or employing units, apportionment of the contribution records and benefit experience records of the transferring employer shall be made between the acquiring units in accordance with the ratio that the total assets acquired by each transferee bears to the total assets transferred by the transferring employer as of the date of the transfers. The current contribution rate of the transferring employer shall in such case continue as the rate of each transferee who or which is an employing unit until the next effective rate date; the current contribution rate of each transferee who or which is an employer shall continue as his or its rate until the next effective rate date. For the succeeding calendar year the rate of each transferee shall be determined as provided in section ten of this article. As to any transfers which occur prior to July thirty-first of the current calendar year such rate shall remain effective for the balance of that calendar year: Provided,

43 however, That if the transfers occur subsequent to July 44 thirty-first such rate shall remain effective for the balance of that calendar year and the rate for the succeeding calendar year shall, notwithstanding any-45 46 47 thing to the contrary provided in section seven of article 48 five of this chapter, be recomputed on the basis of the combined experience of the transferring employers as of 49 50 July thirty-first of the year in which the transfers occur. 51 In case the transferring employer is delinquent in the 52 payment of contributions or interest thereon the 53 acquiring employer shall not be entitled to any benefit 54 of the contribution record of the transferring employer unless payment of such delinquent contributions and 55 56 interest thereon is assumed by the acquiring employer. 57 The commissioner shall upon joint request of the 58 transferor and transferee furnish the transferee a 59 statement of the amount of any contribution and interest 60 due and unpaid by the transferor. A statement so 61 furnished shall be controlling for the purposes of the 62 foregoing proviso.

The provisions of this section shall not apply to any employer which is established through the assistance of any state economic development agency irrespective of the contribution rate of any related predecessor.

§21A-5-17. Interest on past-due payments.

1 Payments unpaid on the date on which due and 2 payable, as prescribed by the commissioner, shall bear 3 interest at the rate of one percent per month until 4 payment plus accrued interest is received by the 5 commissioner. The commissioner may waive interest on 6 the payment of delinquent employers if payment is 7 made on all outstanding delinquent contributions which 8 were incurred on or before the first day of January, one 9 thousand nine hundred eighty-seven, during the period 10 beginning the first day of July, one thousand nine 11 hundred eighty-seven and ending on the thirty-first day 12 of December, one thousand nine hundred eighty-seven.

Interest collected pursuant to this section shall be paid into the employment security special administration fund.

ARTICLE 6. EMPLOYEE ELIGIBILITY; BENEFITS.

§21A-6-1. Eligibility qualifications.

- An unemployed individual shall be eligible to receive benefits only if the commissioner finds that:
- 3 (1) He has registered for work at and thereafter 4 continues to report at an employment office in accor-5 dance with the regulations of the commissioner;
- 6 (2) He has made a claim for benefits in accordance 7 with the provisions of article seven of this chapter and 8 has furnished his social security number, or numbers if 9 he has more than one such number:
- 10 (3) He is able to work and is available for full-time 11 work for which he is fitted by prior training or 12 experience and is doing that which a reasonably prudent 13 person in his circumstances would do in seeking work;
- 14 (4) He has been totally or partially unemployed 15 during his benefit year for a waiting period of one week 16 prior to the week for which he claims benefits for total 17 or partial unemployment; and
- 18 (5) He has within his base period been paid wages for 19 employment equal to not less than two thousand two 20 hundred dollars and must have earned wages in more 21 than one quarter of his base period.

§21A-6-15. Benefit payments for service with nonprofit organizations, state hospitals, institutions of higher education, educational institutions and governmental entities.

1 (1) Benefits based on service in employment as 2 defined in subdivisions (9) and (10) of the definition of "employment" in section three, article one of this 3 4 chapter, shall be payable in the same amount, on the 5 same terms and subject to the same conditions as compensation payable on the basis of other service 6 7 subject to this chapter; except that benefits based on 8 service in an instructional, research or principal 9 administrative capacity in an institution of higher 10 education shall not be paid to an individual for any week 11 of unemployment which begins during the period

- between two successive academic years, or during a similar period between two regular terms, whether or not successive, or during a period of paid sabbatical leave provided for in the individual's contract, if the individual has a contract or contracts to perform services, in any such capacity for any institution or institutions of higher education for both such academic vears or both such terms.
 - (2) Benefits based on service in employment defined in subdivisions (9) and (10) of the definition of "employment" in section three, article one of this chapter, shall be payable in the same amount, on the same terms and subject to the same conditions as benefits payable on the basis of other service subject to this chapter, except that:
 - (a) With respect to services in an instructional, research or principal administrative capacity for an educational institution, benefits shall not be paid based on such services for any week commencing during the period between two successive academic years or terms, or during a similar period between two regular but not successive terms, or during a period of paid sabbatical leave provided for in the individual's contract, to any individual if such individual performs such services in the first of such academic years or terms and if there is a contract or a reasonable assurance that such individual will perform services in any such capacity for any educational institution in the second of such academic years or terms or after such holiday or vacation period.
 - (b) With respect to services in any other capacity for an educational institution, benefits shall not be paid on the basis of such services to any individual for any week which commences during a period between two successive academic years or terms if such individual performs such services in the first of such academic years or terms and there is a reasonable assurance that such individual will perform such services in the second of such academic years or terms, except that if compensation is denied to any individual under this subsection and such individual was not offered an opportunity to perform such services for the educational institution for

- the second of such academic years or terms, such individual shall be entitled to a retroactive payment of compensation for each week for which the individual filed a timely claim for compensation and for which compensation was denied solely by reason of this clause.
 - (c) With respect to services described in subdivisions (a) and (b) of this section, benefits shall not be paid to any individual for any week which commences during an established and customary vacation period or holiday recess if such individual performs such services in the period immediately before such vacation period or holiday recess, and there is a reasonable assurance that such individual will perform such services in the period immediately following such vacation period or holiday recess.
- 68 (d) On and after April one, one thousand nine hundred eighty-four, benefits payable on the basis of 69 services in any such capacities as specified in subdivi-70 sions (a) and (b) of this section shall be denied as 71 72 specified in subdivisions (a), (b) and (c) of this section 73 to any individual who performed such services in an educational institution while in the employ of an 74educational service agency. For purposes of this 75 subdivision the term "educational service agency" means 76 a governmental agency or governmental entity which is 77 established and operated exclusively for the purpose of 78 79 providing such services to one or more educational 80 institutions.

ARTICLE 7. CLAIM PROCEDURE.

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§21A-7-11. Benefits pending appeal.

Benefits found payable by decision of a deputy, appeal 1 2 tribunal, the board or court shall be immediately paid in accordance therewith up to the week in which a 3 4 subsequent appellate body renders a decision, by order, finding that benefits were not or are not payable. If, at 5 any appeal stage, benefits are found to be payable which 6 7 were found before such appeal stage to be not payable, 8 the commissioner shall immediately reinstate the payment benefits. If the final decision in any case 9

determines that a claimant was not lawfully entitled to

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11 benefits paid to him pursuant to a prior decision, such 12 amount of benefits so paid shall be deemed overpaid. 13 The commissioner shall recover such amount by civil 14 action or in any manner provided in this code for the 15 collection of past-due payment and shall withhold, in 16 whole or in part, as determined by the commissioner, 17 any future benefits payable to the individual and credit 18 such amount against the overpayment until it is repaid 19 in full. If the final decision in any case determines that 20 the claimant was not lawfully entitled to the benefits 21 paid to him pursuant to a prior order, any benefits so 22 paid pursuant to such prior order, shall not be charge-23 able to the employer's account.

- (a) Whenever the commissioner finds that a discharged employee has received back pay at his customary wage rate from his employer after reinstatement, such employee shall be liable to repay the benefits, if any, paid to such individual during the time he was unemployed. In any case in which, under this section, an employee is liable to repay benefits to the commissioner, such sum shall be collectible by civil action in the name of the commissioner.
- 33 (b) Whenever an employer subject to this chapter is 34required to make a payment of back pay to an individual 35 who has received unemployment compensation benefits 36 during the same period covered by the back pay award, 37 the employer shall withhold an amount equal to the 38 unemployment compensation benefits and shall repay 39 the amount withheld to the unemployment compensation 40 trust fund. If an employer fails to comply with this 41section, the commissioner shall have the right to recover 42 from the employer the amount of unemployment 43 compensation benefits which should have been withheld 44 by a civil action.

The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Chairman Senate Committee

Chairman House Committee

Chairman House Committee

Originating in the House.

Takes effect July 1, 1987.

Loud C. Wills

Clerk of the Senate

Clerk of the House of Delegates

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Delegates

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GOVERNOR

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