No: 522

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION, 1988



(By Senator InRovich, Mr. Print)

PASSED March 2, 1988 In Effect July 1, 1988

ENROLLED

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

Senate Bill No. 522

(SENATORS TONKOVICH, MR. PRESIDENT (BY REQUEST) AND HARMAN,

original sponsor)

[Passed March 2, 1988; to take effect July 1, 1988.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact section ten, article five; and section ten, article six, all of chapter twenty-one-a of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirtyone, as amended, all relating to unemployment compensation; extending surtax on debit balance employers; and extending cap on maximum weekly benefits.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That section ten, article five; and section ten, article six, all of chapter twenty-one-a of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended and reenacted, all to read as follows:

ARTICLE 5. EMPLOYER COVERAGE AND RESPONSIBILITY.

§21A-5-10. Experience ratings; decreased rates; adjustment of accounts and rates; debit balance account rates.

- 1 On and after July one, one thousand nine hundred eighty-
- 2 one, an employer's payment shall remain two and seven-
- 3 tenths percent, until:

4 (1) There have elapsed thirty-six consecutive months 5 immediately preceding the computation date throughout 6 which an employer's account was chargeable with benefits. 7 (2) His payments credited to his account for all past 8 years exceed the benefits charged to his account by an 9 amount equal to at least the percent of his average annual 10 payroll as shown in Column B of Table II. His rate shall be 11 the amount appearing in Column C of Table II on line with 12 the percentage in Column B. 13 When the total assets of the fund as of January one of a 14 calendar year equal or exceed one hundred percent but are 15 less than one hundred twenty-five percent of the average

benefit payments from the trust fund for the three
preceding calendar years, an employer's rate shall be the
amount appearing in Column D of Table II on line with the

19 percentage in Column B.

When the total assets of the fund as of January one of a
calendar year equal or exceed one hundred twenty-five
percent but are less than one hundred fifty percent, an
employer's rate shall be the amount appearing in Column E
of Table II on line with the percentage in Column B.

When the total assets of the fund as of January one of a
calendar year equal or exceed one hundred fifty percent, an
employer's rate shall be the amount appearing in Column F
of Table II on line with the percentage in Column B.

29

TABLE II

20			INDLE II			
	Col. A	Col. B Percentage of Average Annual Payroll By which	Col. C	Col. D	Col. E	Col. F
	Rate	Credits Exceed	Employer's			
	Class	Charges	Rate			
30	(1)	0.0 to 6.0	4.5	3.5	2.5	1.5
31		6.0	4.1	3.1	$2.0 \\ 2.1$	
	(2)					1.1
32	(3)	7.0	3.9	2.9	1.9	0.9
33	(4)	8.0	3.7	2.7	1.7	0.7
34	(5)	9.0	3.5	2.5	1.5	0.5
35	(6)	10.0	3.3	2.3	1.3	0.3
3 6	(7)	10.5	3.1	2.1	1.1	0.1
37	(8)	11.0	2.9	1.9	0.9	0.0
38	(9)	11.5	2.7	1.7	0.7	0.0
39	(10)	12.0	2.5	1.5	0.5	0.0

3 [Enr. Com. Sub. for S. B. No. 522

4 0	(11)	12.5	2.3	1.3	0.3	0.0
4 1	(12)	13.0	2.1	1.1	0.1	0.0
4 2	(13)	14.0	1.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
4 3	(14)	16.0	1.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
44	(15)	18.0 and over	1.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
				-		

All employer accounts in which charges for all past years
exceed credits for such past years shall be adjusted effective
June thirty, one thousand nine hundred sixty-seven, so that
as of said date, for the purpose of determining such
employer's rate of contribution, the credits for all past years
shall be deemed to equal the charges to such accounts.

51 Effective on and after the computation date of June 52 thirty, one thousand nine hundred eighty-four, the 53 noncredited contribution identified in section seven of this 54 article shall not be added to the employer's debit balance to 55 determine the employer contribution rate.

56 Effective on and after the computation date of June 57 thirty, one thousand nine hundred sixty-seven, all 58 employers with a debit balance account in which the 59benefits charged to their account for all past years exceed 60 the payments credited to their account for such past years 61 by an amount up to and including ten percent of their 62 average annual payroll, shall make payments to the 63 unemployment compensation fund at the rate of three 64 percent of wages paid by them with respect to employment; 65 except that effective on and after July one, one thousand 66 nine hundred eighty-one, all employers with a debit 67 balance account in which the benefits charged to their 68 account for all past years exceed the payments credited to 69 their account for such past years by an amount up to and 70 including five percent of their average annual payroll, shall 71 make payments to the unemployment compensation fund at 72the rate of five and five-tenths percent of wages paid by 73 them with respect to employment.

Figure 24 Effective on or after July one, one thousand nine hundred eighty-one, all employers with a debit balance account in which the benefits charged to their account for all past years exceed the payments credited to their account for such past years by an amount in excess of five percent but less than ten percent of their average annual payroll, shall make payments to the unemployment compensation fund at the rate of six and five-tenths percent of wages paid by them with respect to employment. Enr. Com. Sub. for S. B. No. 522] 4

Effective on and after the computation date of June 83 thirty, one thousand nine hundred sixty-seven, all 84 employers with a debit balance account in which the 85 benefits charged to their account for all past years exceed 86 87 the payments credited to their account for such past years by an amount of ten percent or above of their average 88 annual payroll, shall make payments to the unemployment 89 compensation fund at the rate of three and three-tenths 90 percent of wages paid by them with respect to employment; 91 92 except that effective on and after July one, one thousand nine hundred eighty-one, such payments to the 93 unemployment compensation fund shall be at the rate of 94 seven and five-tenths percent of wages paid by them with 95 respect to employment or at such other rate authorized by 96 97 this article.

98 "Debit balance account" for the purpose of this section
99 means an account in which the benefits charged for all past
100 years exceed the payments credited for such past years.

101 "Credit balance account" for the purposes of this section
102 means an account in which the payments credited for all
103 past years exceed the benefits charged for such past years.

104 Once a debit balance account rate is established for an105 employer's account for a year, it shall apply for the entire106 year.

107 "Due date" means the last day of the month next
108 following a calendar quarter. In determining the amount in
109 the fund on any due date, contributions received, but not
110 benefits paid, for such month next following the end of a
111 calendar quarter shall be included.

112(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, 113 every employer subject to the provisions of this chapter shall, in addition to any other tax provided for in this 114 115section, pay contributions at the rate of one percent surtax 116 on wages paid by him with respect to employment, 117 beginning January first, one thousand nine hundred eighty-118 one, until such time that the commissioner determines that the fund assets equal or exceed the average benefits 119 120 payments from the fund for the preceding three calendar 121 years at which time such surtax shall be discontinued, and 122 the commissioner shall so notify the employers subject to 123the provisions of this chapter.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section,every debit balance employer subject to the provisions of

126 this chapter, and any foreign corporation or business entity
127 engaged in the construction trades which has not been an
128 employer in the state of West Virginia for thirty-six
129 consecutive months ending on the computation date, shall,
130 in addition to any other tax provided for in this section, pay
131 contributions at the rate of one percent surtax on wages
132 paid by him with respect to employment for a period of four
133 years, beginning January first, one thousand nine hundred
134 eighty-six.

(c) Effective June thirty, one thousand nine hundred
eighty-five, and each computation date thereafter, the
reserve balance of a debit balance employer shall be
reduced to fifteen percent if such balance exceeds fifteen
percent. The amount of noncredited tax shall be reduced by
an amount equal to the eliminated charges. If the
eliminated charges exceed the amount of noncredited tax,
the noncredited tax shall be reduced to zero.

ARTICLE 6. EMPLOYEE ELIGIBILITY; BENEFITS.

§21A-6-10. Benefit rate — Total unemployment; annual computation and publication of rates.

1 Each eligible individual who is totally unemployed in any 2 week shall be paid benefits with respect to that week at the 3 weekly rate appearing in Column (C) in the Benefit Table in 4 this paragraph, on the line on which in Column (A) there is 5 indicated the employee's wage class, except as otherwise 6 provided under the term "total and partial unemployment" 7 in section three, article one of this chapter. The employee's 8 wage class shall be determined by his base period wages as 9 shown in Column (B) in the Benefit Table. The right of an 10 employee to receive benefits shall not be prejudiced nor the 11 amount thereof be diminished by reason of failure by an 12 employer to pay either the wages earned by the employee or 13 the contribution due on such wages. An individual who is 14 totally unemployed but earns in excess of twenty-five 15 dollars as a result of odd-job or subsidiary work in any 16 benefit week shall be paid benefits for such week in 17accordance with the provisions of this chapter pertaining to 18 benefits for partial unemployment.

19 The maximum benefit for each wage class shall be equal20 to twenty-six times the weekly benefit rate.

21 On and after July one, one thousand nine hundred eighty-

22 five, and until July one, one thousand nine hundred eighty-

nine, the maximum weekly benefit rate shall be seventy
percent of the average weekly wage in West Virginia, which
average weekly wage shall not exceed three hundred and
twenty-two dollars per week; thereafter, the maximum
benefit rate shall be sixty-six and two-thirds percent of the
average weekly wage in West Virginia.

29Beginning on July one, one thousand nine hundred 30 eighty-nine, the commissioner shall determine the 31 maximum weekly benefit rate upon the basis of the formula 32set forth above and shall establish wage classes as are 33 required, increasing or decreasing the amount of the base 34 period wages required for each wage class by one hundred 35 fifty dollars, establishing the weekly benefit rate for each 36 wage class by rounded dollar amount to be fifty-five 37 percent of one fifty-second of the median dollar amount of 38 wages in the base period for such wage class, and 39 establishing the maximum benefit for each wage class as an 40 amount equal to twenty-six times the weekly benefit rate. 41 The maximum weekly benefit rate, when computed by the 42 commissioner, in accordance with the foregoing provisions, shall be rounded to the next lowest multiple of one dollar. 43 BENEFIT TABLE 44

A Wage Class	B Wages in Base Period	C Weekly Benefit Rate	Maximum Benefit in Benefit Year for Total and/or Partial Un- employment
	Under \$2,200.00	Ineligible	
1	\$2,200.00 - 2,349.99	\$24.00	\$624.00
2	2,350.00 - 2,499.99	25.00	650.00
3	2,500.00 - 2,649.99	27.00	702.00
4	2,650.00 - 2,799.99	28.00	728.00
5	2,800.00 - 2,949.99	30.00	780.00
6	2,950.00 - 3,099.99	31.00	806.00
7	3,100.00 - 3,249.99	33.00	858.00
8	3,250.00 - 3,399.99	35.00	910.00
9	3,400.00 - 3,549.99	36.00	936.00
10	3,550.00 — 3,699.99	38.00	988.00
11	3,700.00 - 3,849.99	39.00	1,014.00
12	3,850.00 - 3,999.99	41.00	1,066.00

58	13	4,000.00 — 4,149.99	43.00	1,118.00
59	14	4,150.00 - 4,299.99	44.00	1,144.00
60	15	4,300.00 - 4,449.99	46.00	1,196.00
61	16	4,450.00 - 4,599.99	47.00	1,222.00
62	17	4,600.00 - 4,749.99	49.00	$1,\!274.00$
63	18	4,750.00 - 4,899.99	51.00	1,326.00
64	19	4,900.00 - 5,049.99	52.00	1,352.00
65	20	5,050.00 - 5,199.99	54.00	1,404.00
66	21	5,200.00 - 5,349.99	55.00	$1,\!430.00$
67	22	5,350.00 - 5,499.99	57.00	1,482.00
68	23	5,500.00 - 5,649.99	58.00	1,508.00
69	24	5,650.00 - 5,799.99	60.00	1,560.00
70	25	5,800.00 - 5,949.99	62.00	1,612.00
71	26	5,950.00 - 6,099.99	63.00	$1,\!638.00$
72	27	6,100.00 - 6,249.99	65.00	1,690.00
73	28	6,250.00 - 6,399.99	66.00	1,716.00
74	29	6,400.00 - 6,549.99	68.00	1,768.00
75	30	6,550.00 - 6,699.99	70.00	1,820.00
76	31	6,700.00 - 6,849.99	71.00	1,846.00
77	32	6,850.00 - 6,999.99	73.00	1,898.00
78	33	7,000.00 - 7,149.99	74.00	1,924.00
79	34	7,150.00 - 7,299.99	76.00	1,976.00
80	35	7,300.00 - 7,449.99	78.00	2,028.00
81	36	7,450.00 - 7,599.99	79.00	2,054.00
82	37	7,600.00 - 7,749.99	81.00	2,106.00
83	38	7,750.00 - 7,899.99	82.00	$2,\!132.00$
84	39	7,900.00 - 8,049.99	84.00	2,184.00
85	40	8,050.00 - 8,199.99	85.00	2,210.00
86	41	8,200.00 - 8,349.99	87.00	2,262.00
87	42	8,350.00 - 8,499.99	89.00	2,314.00
88	43	8,500.00 - 8,649.99	90.00	2,340.00
89	44	8,650.00 - 8,799.99	92.00	2,392.00
90	45	8,800.00 - 8,949.99	93.00	2,418.00
91	46	8,950.00 - 9,099.99	95.00	$2,\!470.00$
92	47	9,100.00 - 9,249.99	97.00	2,522.00
93	48	9,250.00 - 9,399.99	98.00	2,548.00
94	49	9,400.00 - 9,549.99	100.00	2,600.00
95	50	9,550.00 - 9,699.99	101.00	2,626.00
96	51	9,700.00 - 9,849.99	103.00	2,678.00
97	52	9,850.00 - 9,999.99	104.00	2,704.00
98	53	10,000.00 - 10,149.99	106.00	2,756.00
99	. 54	10,150.00 - 10,299.99	108.00	2,808.00
100	55	10,300.00 - 10,449.99	109.00	2,834.00

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101	56	$10,\!450.00 - 10,\!599.99$	111.00	2,886.00
102	57	10,600.00 - 10,749.99	112.00	2,912.00
103	58	10,750.00 - 10,899.99	114.00	2,964.00
104	59	10,900.00 - 11,049.99	116.00	3,016.00
105	60	11,050.00 - 11,199.99	117.00	3,042.00
106	61	$\begin{array}{r} 10,100.00 & - 10,300.33 \\ 10,600.00 & - 10,749.99 \\ 10,750.00 & - 10,899.99 \\ 10,900.00 & - 11,049.99 \\ 11,050.00 & - 11,199.99 \\ 11,200.00 & - 11,349.99 \\ 11,250.00 & - 11,409.00 \end{array}$	119.00	3,094.00
107	62	11,350.00 - 11,499.99	120.00	3,120.00
108	63	11,500.00 - 11,649.99	122.00	$3,\!172.00$
109	64	$11,\!650.00 - 11,\!799.99$	124.00	3,224.00
110	65	11,800.00 - 11,949.99	125.00	$3,\!250.00$
1 11	66	11,950.00 - 12,099.99	127.00	3,302.00
112	67	12,100.00 - 12,249.99	128.00	3,328.00
113	68	12,250.00 - 12,399.99	130.00	3,380.00
1 14	69	12,400.00 - 12,549.99	131.00	3,406.00
115	70	12,550.00 - 12,699.99	133.00	$3,\!458.00$
116	71	12,700.00 - 12,849.99	135.00	3,510.00
117	7 2	12,850.00 - 12,999.99	136.00	$3,\!536.00$
118	7 3	13,000.00 - 13,149.99	138.00	3,588.00
119	74	13,150.00 - 13,299.99	139.00	3,614.00
120	75	13,300.00 - 13,449.99	141.00	3,666.00
121	76	13,450.00 - 13,599.99	143.00	3,718.00
122	77	13,600.00 - 13,749.99	144.00	3,744.00
123	78	13,750.00 - 13,899.99	146.00	3,796.00
124	79	13,900.00 - 14,049.99	147.00	3,822.00
125	80	14,050.00 - 14,199.99	149.00	3,874.00
126	81	14,200.00 - 14,349.99	150.00	3,900.00
127	82	14,350.00 - 14,499.99	152.00	3,952.00
128	83	14,500.00 - 14,649.99	154.00	4,004.00
129	84	$\begin{array}{c} 11,200.00 & = 11,342.53 \\ 11,350.00 & = 11,499.99 \\ 11,500.00 & = 11,649.99 \\ 11,650.00 & = 11,799.99 \\ 11,650.00 & = 12,099.99 \\ 12,000 & = 12,099.99 \\ 12,250.00 & = 12,399.99 \\ 12,250.00 & = 12,399.99 \\ 12,550.00 & = 12,699.99 \\ 12,550.00 & = 12,699.99 \\ 12,550.00 & = 12,699.99 \\ 12,850.00 & = 12,849.99 \\ 12,850.00 & = 12,999.99 \\ 13,000.00 & = 13,149.99 \\ 13,150.00 & = 13,299.99 \\ 13,300.00 & = 13,449.99 \\ 13,450.00 & = 13,599.99 \\ 13,600.00 & = 13,749.99 \\ 13,750.00 & = 13,899.99 \\ 13,900.00 & = 14,049.99 \\ 14,050.00 & = 14,349.99 \\ 14,350.00 & = 14,499.99 \\ 14,650.00 & = 14,799.99 \\ 14,800.00 & = 14,949.99 \\ 14,800.00 & = 14,949.99 \\ 14,950.00 & = 15,099.99 \\ 14,950.00 & = 15,099.99 \\ 15,040.00 & = 15,099.99 \\ 15,040.00 & = 15,040.00 \\ \end{array}$	155.00	4,030.00
130	85	14,800.00 - 14,949.99	157.00	4,082.00
131	86	14,950.00 - 15,099.99	158.00	4,108.00
132	87	15,100.00 - 15,249.99	160.00	4,160.00
133	88	15,250.00 - 15,399.99	162.00	4,212.00
134	89	15,400.00 - 15,549.99	163.00	4,238.00
135	90	15,550.00 - 15,699.99	165.00	4,290.00
136	91	15,700.00 - 15,849.99	166.00	4,316.00
137	92	15,850.00 - 15,999.99	168.00	4,368.00
138	93	16,000.00 - 16,149.99	170.00	4,420.00
139	94	16,150.00 - 16,299.99	171.00	4,446.00
140	95	16,300.00 - 16,449.99	173.00	$4,\!498.00$
141	96	16,450.00 - 16,599.99	174.00	4,524.00
142	97	16,600.00 - 16,749.99	176.00	4,576.00
143	98	16,750.00 - 16,899.99	177.00	4,602.00

144	99	16,900.00 - 17,049.99	179.00	4,654.00
145	100	17,050.00 - 17,199.99	181.00	4,706.00
146	101	17,200.00 - 17,349.99	182.00	4,732.00
147	102	17,350.00 - 17,499.99	184.00	4,784.00
148	103	17,500.00 - 17,649.99	185.00	4,810.00
149	104	17,650.00 - 17,799.99	187.00	4,862.00
150	105	17,800.00 - 17,949.99	189.00	4,914.00
151	106	17,950.00 - 18,099.99	190.00	4,940.00
152	107	18,100.00 - 18,249.99	192.00	4,992.00
153	108	18,250.00 - 18,399.99	193.00	5,018.00
154	109	18,400.00 - 18,549.99	195.00	5,070.00
155	110	18,550.00 - 18,699.99	196.00	5,096.00
156	111	18,700.00 - 18,849.99	198.00	5,148.00
157	112	18,850.00 - 18,999.99	200.00	5,200.00
158	113	19,000.00 - 19,149.99	201.00	5,226.00
159	114	19,150.00 - 19,299.99	203.00	5,278.00
160	115	19,300.00 - 19,449.99	204.00	5,304.00
161	116	19,450.00 - 19,599.99	206.00	5,356.00
162	117	19,600.00 - 19,749.99	208.00	5,408.00
163	118	19,750.00 - 19,899.99	209.00	$5,\!434.00$
164	119	19,900.00 - 20,049.99	211.00	$5,\!486.00$
165	120	20,050.00 - 20,199.99	212.00	5,512.00
166	121	20,200.00 - 20,349.99	214.00	5,564.00
167	122	20,350.00 - 20,499.99	216.00	5,616.00
168	123	20,500.00 - 20,649.99	217.00	$5,\!642.00$
169	124	20,650.00 - 20,799.99	219.00	5,694.00
170	125	20,800.00 - 20,949.99	220.00	5,720.00
171	126	20,950.00 - 21,099.99	222.00	5,772.00
172	127	21,100.00 - 21,249.99	223.00	5,798.00
173	128	21,250.00 — and over	225.00	5,850.00

174 After he has established such wage classes, the175 commissioner shall prepare and publish a table setting176 forth such information.

177 Average weekly wage shall be computed by dividing the 178 number of employees in West Virginia earning wages in 179 covered employment into the total wages paid to employees 180 in West Virginia in covered employment, and by further 181 dividing said result by fifty-two, and shall be determined 182 from employer wage and contribution reports for the 183 previous calendar year which are furnished to the 184 department on or before June one following such calendar 185 year. The average weekly wage, as determined by the 186 commissioner, shall be rounded to the next higher dollar. Enr. Com. Sub. for S. B. No. 522] 10

187 The computation and determination of rates as aforesaid 188 shall be completed annually before July one, and any such 189 new wage class, with its corresponding wages in base 190 period, weekly benefit rate, and maximum benefit in a 191 benefit year established by the commissioner in the 192 foregoing manner effective on July one, shall apply only to a 193 new claim established by a claimant on and after said July 194 one, and shall not apply to continued claims of a claimant 195 based on his new claim established before said July one.

B (TARACTO CALL STREET CALL

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

Chairman Senate Committee

Chairman House Committ

Originated in the Senate.

To take effect July 1, 1988.

Clerk of the Senate

Clerk of the House of Delegates

man President of the Senate

Speaker House of Delegates

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PRESENTED TO THE

GOVERNOR Date $\frac{3/1/88}{2:30, m}$.

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OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA SECRETARY OF STATE