# WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE 

REGULAR SESSION, 1988

## ENROLLED Conic bullate ta

 SENATE BILL NO. $\sqrt{2} 2$ (By Senator ontouide, Mn. Pruselent)

# ENROLLED <br> COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE <br> FOR 

Senate Bill No. 522<br>(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:
(1) There have elapsed thirty-six consecutive months immediately preceding the computation date throughout which an employer's account was chargeable with benefits.
(2) His payments credited to his account for all past years exceed the benefits charged to his account by an amount equal to at least the percent of his average annual payroll as shown in Column B of Table II. His rate shall be the amount appearing in Column C 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 percent but are 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 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.

TABLE II

| Col. A | Col. B <br> Percentage of <br> Average | Col. C |  | Col. D | Col. E |
| :--- | :---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | Col. F


| $(1)$ | 0.0 to 6.0 | 4.5 | 3.5 | 2.5 | 1.5 |
| ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $(2)$ | 6.0 | 4.1 | 3.1 | 2.1 | 1.1 |
| $(3)$ | 7.0 | 3.9 | 2.9 | 1.9 | 0.9 |
| $(4)$ | 8.0 | 3.7 | 2.7 | 1.7 | 0.7 |
| $(5)$ | 9.0 | 3.5 | 2.5 | 1.5 | 0.5 |
| $(6)$ | 10.0 | 3.3 | 2.3 | 1.3 | 0.3 |
| $(7)$ | 10.5 | 3.1 | 2.1 | 1.1 | 0.1 |
| $(8)$ | 11.0 | 2.9 | 1.9 | 0.9 | 0.0 |
| $(9)$ | 11.5 | 2.7 | 1.7 | 0.7 | 0.0 |
| $(10)$ | 12.0 | 2.5 | 1.5 | 0.5 | 0.0 |

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| $(11)$ | 12.5 | 2.3 | 1.3 | 0.3 | 0.0 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $(12)$ | 13.0 | 2.1 | 1.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| $(13)$ | 14.0 | 1.9 | 0.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| $(14)$ | 16.0 | 1.7 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| $(15)$ | 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.

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

Effective on and after the computation date of June thirty, one thousand nine hundred sixty-seven, 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 up to and including ten percent of their average annual payroll, shall make payments to the unemployment compensation fund at the rate of three percent of wages paid by them with respect to employment; except that effective on and 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 up to and including five percent of their average annual payroll, shall make payments to the unemployment compensation fund at the rate of five and five-tenths percent of wages paid by them with respect to employment.

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.

Effective on and after the computation date of June thirty, one thousand nine hundred sixty-seven, 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 of ten percent or above of their average annual payroll, shall make payments to the unemployment compensation fund at the rate of three and three-tenths percent of wages paid by them with respect to employment; except that effective on and after July one, one thousand nine hundred eighty-one, such payments to the unemployment compensation fund shall be at the rate of seven and five-tenths percent of wages paid by them with respect to employment or at such other rate authorized by this article.
"Debit balance account" for the purpose of this section means an account in which the benefits charged for all past years exceed the payments credited for such past years.
"Credit balance account" for the purposes of this section means an account in which the payments credited for all past years exceed the benefits charged for such past years.

Once a debit balance account rate is established for an employer's account for a year, it shall apply for the entire year.
"Due date" means the last day of the month next following a calendar quarter. In determining the amount in the fund on any due date, contributions received, but not benefits paid, for such month next following the end of a calendar quarter shall be included.
(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, every employer subject to the provisions of this chapter shall, in addition to any other tax provided for in this section, pay contributions at the rate of one percent surtax on wages paid by him with respect to employment, beginning January first, one thousand nine hundred eightyone, until such time that the commissioner determines that the fund assets equal or exceed the average benefits payments from the fund for the preceding three calendar years at which time such surtax shall be discontinued, and the commissioner shall so notify the employers subject to the provisions of this chapter.
(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, every debit balance employer subject to the provisions of

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

ARTICLE 6. EMPLOYEE ELIGIBILITY; BENEFITS.

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

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

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

On and after July one, one thousand nine hundred eightyfive, and until July one, one thousand nine hundred eighty-

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| $\begin{gathered} \text { A } \\ \text { Wage } \\ \text { Class } \end{gathered}$ | B <br> Wages in Base Period |  | Maximum Benefit in Benefit Year for Total and/or Partial Unemployment |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Under $\quad \$ 2,200.00$ | 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 |

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.

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

BENEFIT TABLE

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| 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 | $10,900.00-1,049.99$ | 116.00 | $3,016.00$ |
| 105 | 60 | $11,050.00-11,199.99$ | 117.00 | $3,042.00$ |
| 106 | 61 | $11,200.00-11,349.99$ | 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 | $3,250.00$ |
| 111 | 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 | $3,380.00$ |
| 114 | 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 | 72 | $12,850.00-12,999.99$ | 136.00 | $3,536.00$ |
| 118 | 73 | $13,000.00-13,149.99$ | 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 | $14,650.00-14,799.99$ | 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 | $4,602.00$ |
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| 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 | $21,250.00-a n d ~ 0 v e r$ | 225.00 | $5,850.00$ |

174 After he has established such wage classes, the 175 commissioner shall prepare and publish a table setting 176 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.

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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.

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


Chairman Senate Committee


Originated in the Senate.

To take effect July 1, 1988.


President of the Senate


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