

HOUSE BILL NO. 1091

Introduced by

Industry, Business and Labor Committee

(At the request of Job Service North Dakota)

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 1 of section 52-06-04 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to determination of weekly benefit amount for unemployment
3 compensation purposes.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 52-06-04 of the 1997 Supplement
6 to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

7 1. The procedures, provisions, and conditions of this section must determine the
8 "weekly benefit amount" of those individuals who establish a benefit year on and
9 after July 1, 1973:

10 a. For the purpose of this section, the bureau shall each year, on or before the
11 first day of June, determine the average annual wage paid to insured workers
12 and, from that determination, an "average weekly wage", by the following
13 computation:

14 The total wages reported on contribution reports for the preceding
15 calendar year must be divided by the average monthly number of
16 covered workers, whose number must be determined by dividing by
17 twelve the total covered employment reported on contribution reports
18 for the preceding calendar year, and the quotient obtained by dividing
19 the total wages by the average monthly number of covered workers is
20 the average annual wage; and such quotient must be divided by
21 fifty-two and the amount thus obtained, rounded to the nearest cent, is
22 the "average weekly wage".

1 b. An individual's "weekly benefit amount" is one sixty-fifth (if not a multiple of
2 one dollar, to be computed to the next lower multiple of one dollar) of the sum
3 of:

4 (1) The individual's total wages for insured work paid during the two
5 quarters of the individual's base period in which the individual's wages
6 were the highest; and

7 (2) One-half of the individual's total wages for insured work paid during the
8 third highest quarter in the individual's base period.

9 However, if that amount is less than the "minimum weekly benefit amount" the
10 individual is monetarily ineligible for benefits. The "minimum weekly benefit
11 amount" is forty-three dollars. For benefit years beginning after August 8,
12 1987, the "maximum weekly benefit amount" is sixty percent of the "average
13 weekly wage", rounded to the next lower multiple of one dollar if not a multiple
14 of one dollar. However, if on October first of any calendar year beginning with
15 the calendar year 1989, the trust fund reserve is equal to or greater than the
16 required amount, then as of July first of the next year, the maximum weekly
17 benefit amount is ~~sixty-two~~ sixty-five percent of the "average weekly wage",
18 rounded to the next lower multiple of one dollar if not a multiple of one dollar.
19 ~~Further, if on October first of any calendar year beginning with the calendar~~
20 ~~year 1989, the trust fund reserve is equal to or greater than the required~~
21 ~~amount, and if this state's average contribution rate is below the nationwide~~
22 ~~average for the preceding calendar year, then the maximum weekly benefit~~
23 ~~amount is sixty five percent of the "average weekly wage", rounded to the~~
24 ~~next lower multiple of one dollar if not a multiple of one dollar. The average~~
25 ~~contribution rate is determined on the basis of total contributions divided by~~
26 ~~total wages.~~