

# STATE OF NEW YORK

10048

## IN ASSEMBLY

January 30, 2026

Introduced by M. of A. VALDEZ -- read once and referred to the Committee on Labor

AN ACT to amend the labor law, in relation to increasing the unemployment insurance minimum weekly benefit amount

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 5 of section 590 of the labor  
2 law, as amended by section 3 of part KK of chapter 56 of the laws of  
3 2025, is amended to read as follows:  
4 (a) A claimant's weekly benefit amount shall be one twenty-sixth of  
5 the remuneration paid during the highest calendar quarter of the base  
6 period by employers, liable for contributions or payments in lieu of  
7 contributions under this article, provided the claimant has remuneration  
8 paid in all four calendar quarters during such claimant's base period or  
9 alternate base period, but shall not be less than the greater of two  
10 hundred fifty dollars or fifteen percent of the state average weekly  
11 wage. However, for any claimant who has remuneration paid in all four  
12 calendar quarters during such claimant's base period or alternate base  
13 period and whose high calendar quarter remuneration during the base  
14 period is three thousand five hundred seventy-five dollars or less, the  
15 benefit amount shall be one twenty-fifth of the remuneration paid during  
16 the highest calendar quarter of the base period by employers liable for  
17 contributions or payments in lieu of contributions under this article,  
18 but shall not be less than the greater of two hundred fifty dollars or  
19 fifteen percent of the state average weekly wage. A claimant's weekly  
20 benefit shall be one twenty-sixth of the average remuneration paid in  
21 the two highest quarters paid during the base period or alternate base  
22 period by employers liable for contributions or payments in lieu of  
23 contributions under this article when the claimant has remuneration paid  
24 in two or three calendar quarters provided however, that a claimant  
25 whose high calendar quarter is four thousand dollars or less but greater  
26 than three thousand five hundred seventy-five dollars shall have a week-  
27 ly benefit amount of one twenty-sixth of such high calendar quarter, but  
28 shall not be less than the greater of two hundred fifty dollars or

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 fifteen percent of the state average weekly wage. However, for any  
2 claimant who has remuneration paid in two or three calendar quarters  
3 during such claimant's base period or alternate base period and whose  
4 high calendar quarter remuneration during the base period is three thou-  
5 sand five hundred seventy-five dollars or less, the benefit amount shall  
6 be one twenty-fifth of the remuneration paid during the highest calendar  
7 quarter of the base period by employers liable for contributions or  
8 payments in lieu of contributions under this article, but shall not be  
9 less than the greater of two hundred fifty dollars or fifteen percent of  
10 the state average weekly wage. Any claimant whose high calendar quarter  
11 remuneration during the base period is more than three thousand five  
12 hundred seventy-five dollars shall not have a weekly benefit amount less  
13 than [~~one~~] the greater of two hundred [~~forty-three~~] fifty dollars or  
14 fifteen percent of the state average weekly wage. The weekly benefit  
15 amount, so computed, that is not a multiple of one dollar shall be  
16 lowered to the next multiple of one dollar. On the first Monday of  
17 September, nineteen hundred ninety-eight the weekly benefit amount shall  
18 not exceed three hundred sixty-five dollars nor be less than forty  
19 dollars, until the first Monday of September, two thousand, at which  
20 time the maximum benefit payable pursuant to this subdivision shall  
21 equal one-half of the state average weekly wage for covered employment  
22 as calculated by the department no sooner than July first, two thousand  
23 and no later than August first, two thousand, rounded down to the lowest  
24 dollar. On and after the first Monday of October, two thousand fourteen,  
25 the weekly benefit shall not be less than one hundred dollars, nor shall  
26 it exceed four hundred twenty dollars until the first Monday of October,  
27 two thousand fifteen when the maximum benefit amount shall be four  
28 hundred twenty-five dollars, until the first Monday of October, two  
29 thousand sixteen when the maximum benefit amount shall be four hundred  
30 thirty dollars, until the first Monday of October, two thousand seven-  
31 teen when the maximum benefit amount shall be four hundred thirty-five  
32 dollars, until the first Monday of October, two thousand eighteen when  
33 the maximum benefit amount shall be four hundred fifty dollars, until  
34 the first Monday of October, two thousand nineteen when the maximum  
35 benefit amount shall be thirty-six percent of the average weekly wage  
36 until the first Monday of October, two thousand twenty-five when the  
37 maximum benefit amount shall be eight hundred sixty-nine dollars, until  
38 the first Monday of October, two thousand twenty-six and each year ther-  
39 eafter on the first Monday of October when the [~~maximum~~] benefit amount  
40 shall not be less than the greater of two hundred fifty dollars or  
41 fifteen percent of the state average weekly wage and shall not exceed  
42 fifty percent of the average weekly wage provided, however, that in no  
43 event shall the maximum benefit amount be reduced from the previous  
44 year.

45 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.