STATE OF NEW YORK

11019

IN ASSEMBLY

April 21, 2026

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

AN ACT to amend the labor law, in relation to indexing unemployment benefits to inflation

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

Section 1. Section 529 of the labor law, as added by section 3 of part O of chapter 57 of the laws of 2013, and subdivision 1 as amended by section 2 of part KK of chapter 56 of the laws of 2025, is amended to read as follows:

§ 529. Average annual wage; average weekly wage. 1. The "average annual wage" shall be the average annual wage of the state of New York for the previous calendar year as determined by the commissioner no later than the thirty-first day of May of each year**, increased by the rate of inflation, if greater than zero, as based on the consumer price index for the previous calendar year, as reported by the United States bureau of labor statistics**. For purposes of calculating "wages" pursuant to paragraph (a) of subdivision one of section five hundred eighteen of this title only, the "average annual wage" shall be calculated using the four most recent quarters of published New York state quarterly census of employment and wages data.

2. The "average weekly wage" shall be the average weekly wage of the state of New York for the previous calendar year**,** as determined by the commissioner no later than the thirty-first day of May of each year**, increased by the rate of inflation, if greater than zero, as based on the consumer price index for the previous calendar year, as reported by the United States bureau of labor statistics**.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.

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

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