STATE OF NEW YORK

9381

IN SENATE

March 6, 2026

Introduced by Sen. JACKSON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed 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:

Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 5 of section 590 of the labor law, as amended by section 3 of part KK of chapter 56 of the laws of 2025, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A claimant's weekly benefit amount shall be one twenty-sixth of the remuneration paid during the highest calendar quarter of the base period by employers, liable for contributions or payments in lieu of contributions under this article, provided the claimant has remuneration paid in all four calendar quarters during such claimant's base period or alternate base period**, but shall not be less than the greater of two hundred fifty dollars or fifteen percent of the state average weekly wage**. However, for any claimant who has remuneration paid in all four calendar quarters during such claimant's base period or alternate base period and whose high calendar quarter remuneration during the base period is three thousand five hundred seventy-five dollars or less, the benefit amount shall be one twenty-fifth of the remuneration paid during the highest calendar quarter of the base period by employers liable for contributions or payments in lieu of contributions under this article**, but shall not be less than the greater of two hundred fifty dollars or fifteen percent of the state average weekly wage**. A claimant's weekly benefit shall be one twenty-sixth of the average remuneration paid in the two highest quarters paid during the base period or alternate base period by employers liable for contributions or payments in lieu of contributions under this article when the claimant has remuneration paid in two or three calendar quarters provided however, that a claimant whose high calendar quarter is four thousand dollars or less but greater than three thousand five hundred seventy-five dollars shall have a weekly benefit amount of one twenty-sixth of such high calendar quarter**, but 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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fifteen percent of the state average weekly wage. However, for any claimant who has remuneration paid in two or three calendar quarters during such claimant's base period or alternate base period and whose high calendar quarter remuneration during the base period is three thousand five hundred seventy-five dollars or less, the benefit amount shall be one twenty-fifth of the remuneration paid during the highest calendar quarter of the base period by employers liable for contributions or payments in lieu of contributions under this article**, but shall not be less than the greater of two hundred fifty dollars or fifteen percent of the state average weekly wage**. Any claimant whose high calendar quarter remuneration during the base period is more than three thousand five hundred seventy-five dollars shall not have a weekly benefit amount less than [~~one~~] **the greater of two** hundred [~~forty-three~~] **fifty** dollars **or fifteen percent of the state average weekly wage**. The weekly benefit amount, so computed, that is not a multiple of one dollar shall be lowered to the next multiple of one dollar. On the first Monday of September, nineteen hundred ninety-eight the weekly benefit amount shall not exceed three hundred sixty-five dollars nor be less than forty dollars, until the first Monday of September, two thousand, at which time the maximum benefit payable pursuant to this subdivision shall equal one-half of the state average weekly wage for covered employment as calculated by the department no sooner than July first, two thousand and no later than August first, two thousand, rounded down to the lowest dollar. On and after the first Monday of October, two thousand fourteen, the weekly benefit shall not be less than one hundred dollars, nor shall it exceed four hundred twenty dollars until the first Monday of October, two thousand fifteen when the maximum benefit amount shall be four hundred twenty-five dollars, until the first Monday of October, two thousand sixteen when the maximum benefit amount shall be four hundred thirty dollars, until the first Monday of October, two thousand seventeen when the maximum benefit amount shall be four hundred thirty-five dollars, until the first Monday of October, two thousand eighteen when the maximum benefit amount shall be four hundred fifty dollars, until the first Monday of October, two thousand nineteen when the maximum benefit amount shall be thirty-six percent of the average weekly wage until the first Monday of October, two thousand twenty-five when the maximum benefit amount shall be eight hundred sixty-nine dollars, until the first Monday of October, two thousand twenty-six and each year thereafter on the first Monday of October when the [~~maximum~~] benefit amount shall **not** be **less than the greater of two hundred fifty dollars or fifteen percent of the state average weekly wage and shall not exceed** fifty percent of the average weekly wage provided, however, that in no event shall the maximum benefit amount be reduced from the previous year.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.