# STATE OF NEW YORK

9382--A

# IN SENATE

March 6, 2026

Introduced by Sens. JACKSON, SALAZAR -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Labor -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the labor law, in relation to authorizing a claimant to receive a dependent allowance in addition to unemployment insurance benefits

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

Section 1. Section 590 of the labor law is amended by adding a new subdivision 13 to read as follows:

13. Dependent allowance. (a) For the purposes of this subdivision, the term "dependent" shall mean:

(i) children eighteen years old and younger, including foster children, stepchildren, and children for whom the claimant has at least fifty percent custody in a shared custody arrangement;

(ii) full-time students up to the age of twenty-six;

(iii) nonworking adults in the household ages sixty and older; and

(iv) adults with disabilities in the household.

(b) In addition to the benefits received pursuant to this section, a claimant eligible for such benefits shall also be entitled to receive a dependent allowance. Beginning on the effective date of this subdivision, such dependent allowance shall be equal to forty-five dollars per dependent per week. The amount of such dependent allowance shall increase annually according to the consumer price index on March first, by an amount determined by the department to represent the percent change in the price index published for December of the preceding year over the price index published for December of the year prior to the preceding year, adjusted to the nearest one tenth of one percent. The department shall report the annual increase of such dependent allowance to the legislature and shall publish the current dependent allowance amount in a prominent location on the department's website.

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

LBD14162-03-6

(c) The amount of the dependent allowance a claimant receives pursuant to this subdivision shall be considered part of such claimant's benefit amount and shall be subject to the same due process and appeal rights.

(d) For the purpose of determining a claimant's eligibility to receive a dependent allowance pursuant to this subdivision, the department shall request information relating to whether a claimant has any dependents as part of the initial application for benefits.

(e) The number of dependents established for a claimant at the beginning of a benefit year shall remain in effect for the entirety of such benefit year.

(f) An individual that is determined to be a dependent of a claimant may not be considered a dependent of another claimant for purposes of a dependent allowance with respect to the same weekly benefit.

(e) No later than the end of the month following each completed calendar quarter, the department shall provide a written report to the legislature on dependent allowances provided pursuant to this subdivision, and shall make such report publicly available in a prominent location on the department's website. Such report shall include the following information from the immediately preceding calendar quarter, deidentified and disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender, location and poverty level:

(i) the total number of claimants claiming a dependent allowance;

(ii) the average weekly dependent allowance amount;

(iii) the average number of dependents claimed by a claimant, broken down by the type of dependent; and

(iv) information on the number of dependent allowance appeals filed and the outcomes of such appeals.

(f) (i) An employer shall not be charged for a dependent allowance received by a claimant pursuant to this subdivision.

(ii) An employer shall not be considered an interested party with respect to a dependent allowance received by a claimant and shall not have any right to contest such dependent allowance.

(g) The department shall provide notice to a claimant of the weekly dependent allowance amount, the dependent or dependents established for such claimant and the calculation used to determine the amount of the dependent allowance in such claimant's monetary determination.

§ 2. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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 hundred forty-three dollars. 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 be fifty percent of the average weekly wage provided, however, that in no event shall the maximum benefit amount be reduced from the previous year**, and provided, however, that in no event shall the maximum benefit amount, including the amount of a dependent allowance a claimant receives pursuant to subdivision thirteen of this section, exceed one hundred percent of such claimant's average weekly wage from such claimant's highest-earning calendar quarter**.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.