

# HB 192: Unemployment Benefits

*"An Act relating to the payment of unemployment compensation benefits; relating to a penalty for late unemployment benefit payments; relating to inflation adjustments to unemployment benefit amounts; relating to an insured worker's availability for work; and providing for an effective date."*



# Unemployment in Alaska

The mission of Alaska's state unemployment insurance program is to:

**Provide temporary wage replacement** for individuals who lose a job through no fault of their own; **to protect employers** against the dispersal of a trained workforce while temporary shutdowns are necessary; **to facilitate reemployment**; and to **help stabilize the economy**

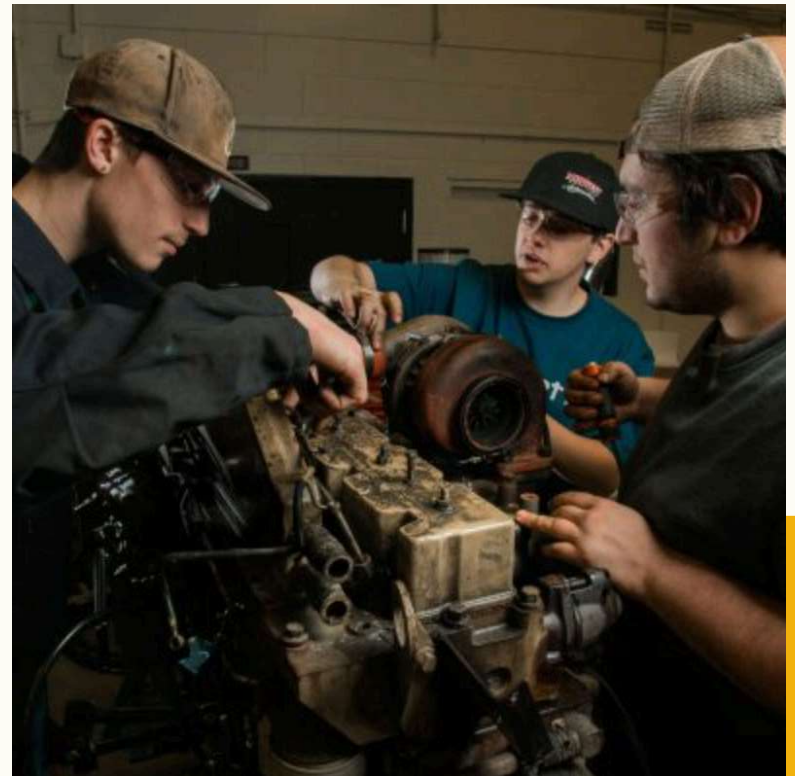


## *Unemployment Insurance helps Alaskans...*

Unemployment Insurance **helps Alaskans** bridge the gap between jobs and **helps ensure they are able to successfully get back to work** after periods of unemployment.

In calendar year 2024, **19,651 Alaskans (or about 1 out of every 50 Alaskans)** qualified for and received at least one unemployment insurance weekly benefit payment after being separated from employment

Employer and employee contributions organically increase over time as wages increase, yet **unemployment benefit payouts have not increased in sixteen years**



# House Bill 192:

01

Increases the **weekly benefit amount** that qualifying unemployed Alaskans receive for the first time since 2009

# House Bill 192:

02

Increases the **weekly supplemental allowance** that qualifying unemployed Alaskans receive for each of **up to three dependents**, for the first time since 2009

# House Bill 192:

03

Implements an **annual unemployment benefit adjustment**, and ties the benefit adjustment increment to the average percentage of increase of the urban Alaska Consumer Price Index over the most recent three-year period

# House Bill 192:

04

Requires **timely payment of benefits** to ensured workers **on weeks that include a holiday**

05

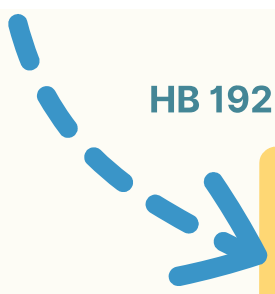
Requires DOL&WD to **issue prompt payment** to unemployment recipients **following successful appeal of a denied claim**

06

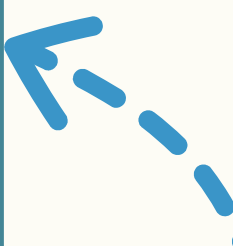
Requires that **payments to insured workers continue uninterrupted** in instances where additional information is requested but the claimant is **unable to reach the call center**

07

Removes a one-week waiting period at the beginning of the benefit period and **extends the benefit period to cover the week or weeks prior to receiving a first paycheck upon reemployment**



# The Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund (UITF)

- The Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund pays out benefits when an insured worker successfully applies for unemployment
  - The parameters for use of the UITF are spelled out in Federal Law (Section 3304(a)(4) of the Federal Unemployment Tax Act), and require that states use UITF funds **only for paying UI benefits**
  - In FY2024 the UITF brought in **\$165.9 million in revenue** and only paid out **\$43.5 million in benefits**
  - In September 2024, the UITF balance was **\$724.4 Million, or \$186.2 Million more than the statutory target reserve ratio of 3.3% of taxable wages**
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Questions?

Representative Ted Eischeid  
House District 22

