

SENATE BILL NO. 159

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATORS COSTELLO, Wilson, Hughes

Introduced: 1/18/22

Referred: Labor and Commerce, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to unemployment benefits."**

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 * **Section 1.** AS 23.20.340(a) is amended to read:

4 (a) An examiner designated by the department shall take the claim. The
5 examiner shall take all evidence pertaining to the eligibility of the claimant, including
6 evidence that the claimant submitted the claim from a duplicate, out-of-state, or
7 foreign Internet protocol address, and shall promptly transmit all evidence to the
8 department. The department, or a representative designated by it for the purpose, shall,
9 based on [THE BASIS OF] the evidence submitted and any additional evidence it
10 requires, make an initial determination of [THE CLAIM AS TO] whether the claimant
11 is eligible for benefits under AS 23.20.350 and make an initial determination of the
12 weekly benefit amount and the maximum potential benefit amount. Before making an
13 initial determination of the claimant's eligibility, the department shall verify the
14 claimant's identity and coordinate with the Department of Health and Social
15 Services to review information in the possession of the Department of Health and

Social Services that is relevant to the claimant's eligibility.

* **Sec. 2.** AS 23.20.340(b) is amended to read:

(b) Within one year from the date of the initial determination of the weekly benefit amount and the maximum potential benefit amount established under AS 23.20.350, the department shall reconsider the determination or any subsequent determination under this chapter and shall issue a redetermination amending the determination if the department finds that

(1) an error in computation or identity has been made;

(2) additional wages or other facts pertinent to the claimant's insured status or eligibility for benefits, **including evidence that the claimant submitted the claim from a duplicate, out-of-state, or foreign Internet protocol address,** have become available;

(3) the determination resulted from a nondisclosure or misrepresentation of a material fact; or

(4) the determination resulted from a misapplication of law by the department.

* **Sec. 3.** AS 23.20.350(e) is amended to read:

(e) An individual who is eligible under (d) of this section is entitled to receive a weekly benefit under this chapter for the number of weeks set out in column (B) of the table in this subsection opposite the applicable **state average unemployment rate** [EARNINGS RATIO OF THE INDIVIDUAL] set out in column (A):

(A)	(B)
<u>State Average</u>	Number of Weeks
<u>Unemployment Rate</u> [EARNINGS RATIO]	
<u>up to 7.00 percent</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>7.01-7.50 percent</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>7.51-8.00 percent</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>8.01-8.50 percent</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>8.51-9.00 percent</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>9.01-9.50 percent</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>9.51-10.00 percent</u>	<u>18</u>

1	<u>10.01-10.50 percent</u>	<u>19</u>
2	<u>10.51-11.00 percent</u>	<u>20.</u>
3	[LESS THAN 1.50	16
4	1.50-1.99	18
5	2.00-2.49	20
6	2.50-2.99	22
7	3.00-3.49	24
8	3.50 OR MORE	26]

* **Sec. 4.** AS 23.20.350(g) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

(3) "state average unemployment rate" means the average seasonally adjusted monthly unemployment rate for the most recent third quarter of the calendar year as reported by the department.

* **Sec. 5.** AS 23.20.350(g)(2) is repealed.