

HOUSE BILL NO. 192

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE EISCHEID

Introduced: 4/14/25

Referred: Labor and Commerce, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

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

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

6 * **Section 1.** AS 23.20.340(d) is amended to read:

7 (d) Unless the claimant is determined to be disqualified for benefits under
8 AS 23.20.360, 23.20.362, 23.20.375, 23.20.378 - 23.20.387, or 23.20.505, benefits
9 shall be promptly paid in accordance with the initial determination or subsequent
10 redetermination. **The department may not delay payment of an approved weekly**
11 **benefit because of a holiday. A penalty payment equal to 10 percent of the benefit**
12 **due shall be paid to the claimant for each day the payment is late.**

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

14 (f) If a determination of disqualification under AS 23.20.360, 23.20.362,

23.20.375, 23.20.378 - 23.20.387, or 23.20.505 is made, the claimant shall be promptly notified of the determination and the reasons for it. The claimant and other interested parties as defined by regulations of the department may appeal the determination in the same manner prescribed in this chapter for appeals of initial determinations and redeterminations. Benefits may not be paid while a determination is being appealed for any week for which the determination of disqualification was made. However, if a decision on the appeal allows benefits to the claimant, those benefits must be paid **within 24 hours, including weekends and holidays. If the benefits are not paid within 24 hours, a penalty payment equal to 10 percent of the benefits due shall be paid to the claimant for each day the payment is late** [PROMPTLY].

* **Sec. 3.** AS 23.20.340 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(h) The department shall develop a contingency plan for periods when the call center call volume may exceed the capacity of the call center. An insured worker may not be disqualified from benefits, or have benefits reduced, for failure to timely provide information through a call center if, during the week the information was due, the volume of calls received by the call center exceeded the capacity of the call center to accept calls.

* **Sec. 4.** AS 23.20.350(d) is amended to read:

(d) An individual who is eligible under (a) of this section is entitled to receive the weekly benefit amount set out in column (B) of the table in this subsection that is opposite the amount set out in column (A) of the individual's base period wages determined under (c) of this section:

(A)		(B)
Base Period Wages		Weekly Benefit Amount
At least	But less than	
0	2,500	\$ 0
2,500	2,750	56
2,750	3,000	58
3,000	3,250	60

1	3,250	3,500	62
2	3,500	3,750	64
3	3,750	4,000	66
4	4,000	4,250	68
5	4,250	4,500	70
6	4,500	4,750	72
7	4,750	5,000	74
8	5,000	5,250	76
9	5,250	5,500	78
10	5,500	5,750	80
11	5,750	6,000	82
12	6,000	6,250	84
13	6,250	6,500	86
14	6,500	6,750	88
15	6,750	7,000	90
16	7,000	7,250	92
17	7,250	7,500	94
18	7,500	7,750	96
19	7,750	8,000	98
20	8,000	8,250	100
21	8,250	8,500	102
22	8,500	8,750	104
23	8,750	9,000	106
24	9,000	9,250	108
25	9,250	9,500	110
26	9,500	9,750	112
27	9,750	10,000	114
28	10,000	10,250	116
29	10,250	10,500	118
30	10,500	10,750	120
31	10,750	11,000	122

1	11,000	11,250	124
2	11,250	11,500	126
3	11,500	11,750	128
4	11,750	12,000	130
5	12,000	12,250	132
6	12,250	12,500	134
7	12,500	12,750	136
8	12,750	13,000	138
9	13,000	13,250	140
10	13,250	13,500	142
11	13,500	13,750	144
12	13,750	14,000	146
13	14,000	14,250	148
14	14,250	14,500	150
15	14,500	14,750	152
16	14,750	15,000	154
17	15,000	15,250	156
18	15,250	15,500	158
19	15,500	15,750	160
20	15,750	16,000	162
21	16,000	16,250	164
22	16,250	16,500	166
23	16,500	16,750	168
24	16,750	17,000	170
25	17,000	17,250	172
26	17,250	17,500	174
27	17,500	17,750	176
28	17,750	18,000	178
29	18,000	18,250	180
30	18,250	18,500	182
31	18,500	18,750	184

1	18,750	19,000	186
2	19,000	19,250	188
3	19,250	19,500	190
4	19,500	19,750	192
5	19,750	20,000	194
6	20,000	20,250	196
7	20,250	20,500	198
8	20,500	20,750	200
9	20,750	21,000	202
10	21,000	21,250	204
11	21,250	21,500	206
12	21,500	21,750	208
13	21,750	22,000	210
14	22,000	22,250	212
15	22,250	22,500	214
16	22,500	22,750	216
17	22,750	23,000	218
18	23,000	23,250	220
19	23,250	23,500	222
20	23,500	23,750	224
21	23,750	24,000	226
22	24,000	24,250	228
23	24,250	24,500	230
24	24,500	24,750	232
25	24,750	25,000	234
26	25,000	25,250	236
27	25,250	25,500	238
28	25,500	25,750	240
29	25,750	26,000	242
30	26,000	26,250	244
31	26,250	26,500	246

1	26,500	26,750	248
2	26,750	27,000	250
3	27,000	27,250	252
4	27,250	27,500	254
5	27,500	27,750	256
6	27,750	28,000	258
7	28,000	28,250	260
8	28,250	28,500	262
9	28,500	28,750	264
10	28,750	29,000	266
11	29,000	29,250	268
12	29,250	29,500	270
13	29,500	29,750	272
14	29,750	30,000	274
15	30,000	30,250	276
16	30,250	30,500	278
17	30,500	30,750	280
18	30,750	31,000	282
19	31,000	31,250	284
20	31,250	31,500	286
21	31,500	31,750	288
22	31,750	32,000	290
23	32,000	32,250	292
24	32,250	32,500	294
25	32,500	32,750	296
26	32,750	33,000	298
27	33,000	33,250	300
28	33,250	33,500	302
29	33,500	33,750	304
30	33,750	34,000	306
31	34,000	34,250	308

1	34,250	34,500	310
2	34,500	34,750	312
3	34,750	35,000	314
4	35,000	35,250	316
5	35,250	35,500	318
6	35,500	35,750	320
7	35,750	36,000	322
8	36,000	36,250	324
9	36,250	36,500	326
10	36,500	36,750	328
11	36,750	37,000	330
12	37,000	37,250	332
13	37,250	37,500	334
14	37,500	37,750	336
15	37,750	38,000	338
16	38,000	38,250	340
17	38,250	38,500	342
18	38,500	38,750	344
19	38,750	39,000	346
20	39,000	39,250	348
21	39,250	39,500	350
22	39,500	39,750	352
23	39,750	40,000	354
24	40,000	40,250	356
25	40,250	40,500	358
26	40,500	40,750	360
27	40,750	41,000	362
28	41,000	41,250	364
29	41,250	41,500	366
30	41,500	41,750	368
31	41,750	42,000	370

1	42,000	<u>42,250</u>	<u>372</u>
2	<u>42,250</u>	<u>42,500</u>	<u>374</u>
3	<u>42,500</u>	<u>42,750</u>	<u>376</u>
4	<u>42,750</u>	<u>43,000</u>	<u>378</u>
5	<u>43,000</u>	<u>43,250</u>	<u>380</u>
6	<u>43,250</u>	<u>43,500</u>	<u>382</u>
7	<u>43,500</u>	<u>43,750</u>	<u>384</u>
8	<u>43,750</u>	<u>44,000</u>	<u>386</u>
9	<u>44,000</u>	<u>44,250</u>	<u>388</u>
10	<u>44,250</u>	<u>44,500</u>	<u>390</u>
11	<u>44,500</u>	<u>44,750</u>	<u>392</u>
12	<u>44,750</u>	<u>45,000</u>	<u>394</u>
13	<u>45,000</u>	<u>45,250</u>	<u>396</u>
14	<u>45,250</u>	<u>45,500</u>	<u>398</u>
15	<u>45,500</u>	<u>45,750</u>	<u>400</u>
16	<u>45,750</u>	<u>46,000</u>	<u>402</u>
17	<u>46,000</u>	<u>46,250</u>	<u>404</u>
18	<u>46,250</u>	<u>46,500</u>	<u>406</u>
19	<u>46,500</u>	<u>46,750</u>	<u>408</u>
20	<u>46,750</u>	<u>47,000</u>	<u>410</u>
21	<u>47,000</u>	<u>47,250</u>	<u>412</u>
22	<u>47,250</u>	<u>47,500</u>	<u>414</u>
23	<u>47,500</u>	<u>47,750</u>	<u>416</u>
24	<u>47,750</u>	<u>48,000</u>	<u>418</u>
25	<u>48,000</u>	<u>48,250</u>	<u>420</u>
26	<u>48,250</u>	<u>48,500</u>	<u>422</u>
27	<u>48,500</u>	<u>48,750</u>	<u>424</u>
28	<u>48,750</u>	<u>49,000</u>	<u>426</u>
29	<u>49,000</u>	<u>49,250</u>	<u>428</u>
30	<u>49,250</u>	<u>49,500</u>	<u>430</u>
31	<u>49,500</u>	<u>49,750</u>	<u>432</u>

1	<u>49,750</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>434</u>
2	<u>50,000</u>	<u>50,250</u>	<u>436</u>
3	<u>50,250</u>	<u>50,500</u>	<u>438</u>
4	<u>50,500</u>	<u>50,750</u>	<u>440</u>
5	<u>50,750</u>	<u>51,000</u>	<u>442</u>
6	<u>51,000</u>	<u>51,250</u>	<u>444</u>
7	<u>51,250</u>	<u>51,500</u>	<u>446</u>
8	<u>51,500</u>	<u>51,750</u>	<u>448</u>
9	<u>51,750</u>	<u>52,000</u>	<u>450</u>
10	<u>52,000</u>	<u>52,250</u>	<u>452</u>
11	<u>52,250</u>	<u>52,500</u>	<u>454</u>
12	<u>52,500</u>	<u>52,750</u>	<u>456</u>
13	<u>52,750</u>	<u>53,000</u>	<u>458</u>
14	<u>53,000</u>	<u>53,250</u>	<u>460</u>
15	<u>53,250</u>	<u>53,500</u>	<u>462</u>
16	<u>53,500</u>	<u>53,750</u>	<u>464</u>
17	<u>53,750</u>	<u>54,000</u>	<u>466</u>
18	<u>54,000</u>	<u>54,250</u>	<u>468</u>
19	<u>54,250</u>	<u>54,500</u>	<u>470</u>
20	<u>54,500</u>	<u>54,750</u>	<u>472</u>
21	<u>54,750</u>	<u>55,000</u>	<u>474</u>
22	<u>55,000</u>	<u>55,250</u>	<u>476</u>
23	<u>55,250</u>	<u>55,500</u>	<u>478</u>
24	<u>55,500</u>	<u>55,750</u>	<u>480</u>
25	<u>55,750</u>	<u>56,000</u>	<u>482</u>
26	<u>56,000</u>	<u>56,250</u>	<u>484</u>
27	<u>56,250</u>	<u>56,500</u>	<u>486</u>
28	<u>56,500</u>	<u>56,750</u>	<u>488</u>
29	<u>56,750</u>	<u>57,000</u>	<u>490</u>
30	<u>57,000</u>	<u>57,250</u>	<u>492</u>
31	<u>57,250</u>	<u>57,500</u>	<u>494</u>

1	<u>57,500</u>	<u>57,750</u>	<u>496</u>
2	<u>57,750</u>	<u>58,000</u>	<u>498</u>
3	<u>58,000</u>	<u>58,250</u>	<u>500</u>
4	<u>58,250</u>	<u>58,500</u>	<u>502</u>
5	<u>58,500</u>	<u>58,750</u>	<u>504</u>
6	<u>58,750</u>	<u>59,000</u>	<u>506</u>
7	<u>59,000</u>	<u>59,250</u>	<u>508</u>
8	<u>59,250</u>	<u>59,500</u>	<u>510</u>
9	<u>59,500</u>	<u>59,750</u>	<u>512</u>
10	<u>59,750</u>	<u>60,000</u>	<u>514</u>
11	<u>60,000</u>	<u>60,250</u>	<u>516</u>
12	<u>60,250</u>	<u>60,500</u>	<u>518</u>
13	<u>60,500</u>	<u>60,750</u>	<u>520</u>
14	<u>60,750</u>	<u>61,000</u>	<u>522</u>
15	<u>61,000</u>	<u>61,250</u>	<u>524</u>
16	<u>61,250</u>	<u>61,500</u>	<u>526</u>
17	<u>61,500</u>	<u>61,750</u>	<u>528</u>
18	<u>61,750</u>	<u>62,000</u>	<u>530</u> [370].

* **Sec. 5.** AS 23.20.350(f) is amended to read:

(f) An individual who establishes a benefit year is eligible for an allowance for dependents in addition to the individual's weekly benefit amount. The department may require an individual claiming or receiving an allowance for dependents to produce income tax returns, birth certificates, notices of adoption or custody, social security account number of spouse, verification of support documents, or other information necessary to verify that the allowance is payable to the individual. The allowance for dependents

(1) is \$35 [\$24] per week for each dependent, except that the total allowance for dependents paid to an individual may not exceed \$105 [\$72] for each week of unemployment;

(2) is payable beginning with the week during the benefit year in which the individual claims an allowance for the dependent and is payable for the

1 remainder of the individual's eligibility for regular, extended, or supplemental
2 payments during the benefit year;

3 (3) may not be claimed for a new dependent after the end of the benefit
4 year or after the exhaustion of regular benefits in the benefit year. [;

5 (4) REPEALED

6 (5) REPEALED]

7 * **Sec. 6.** AS 23.20.350 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

8 (h) On July 1 of each year, the department shall increase the maximum base
9 period wages in (d) of this section by a percentage equal to the average percentage of
10 increase over the first three of the preceding four calendar years in all items of the
11 Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers for urban Alaska prepared by the
12 United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and calculate new
13 weekly benefit amounts accordingly.

14 * **Sec. 7.** AS 23.20.360 is amended to read:

15 **Sec. 23.20.360. Earnings deducted from weekly benefit amount.** The
16 amount of benefits, excluding the allowance for dependents, payable to an insured
17 worker for a week of unemployment shall be reduced by 75 percent of the wages
18 payable to the insured worker for that week that are in excess of \$50. However, the
19 amount of benefits may not be reduced below zero. If the benefit is not a multiple of
20 \$1, it is computed to the next higher multiple of \$1. If the benefit is zero, no allowance
21 for dependents is payable. **The reduction of benefits payable to an insured worker**
22 **shall begin the week the insured worker receives payment of wages from**
23 **employment. The insured worker shall provide to the department accurate**
24 **documentation of the date the insured worker began employment and the**
25 **employer's payroll schedule. In addition to any other penalty that may apply, the**
26 **department shall recover and remit to the unemployment trust fund**
27 **(AS 23.20.135(a)) 100 percent of any overpayment resulting from the failure of**
28 **the insured worker to provide accurate documentation of the date the insured**
29 **worker began employment or the employer's payroll schedule.**

30 * **Sec. 8.** AS 23.20.375(a) is amended to read:

31 (a) An insured worker is entitled to receive [WAITING-WEEK CREDIT OR]

benefits for a week of unemployment for which the insured worker has not been disqualified under AS 23.20.360, 23.20.362, 23.20.378 - 23.20.387, or 23.20.505 if, in accordance with regulations adopted by the department, the insured worker has **made a claim for benefits**

[(1) MADE AN INITIAL CLAIM FOR BENEFITS; AND

(2) FOR THAT WEEK, CERTIFIED FOR WAITING-WEEK CREDIT OR MADE A CLAIM FOR BENEFITS].

* **Sec. 9.** AS 23.20.378(a) is amended to read:

(a) An insured worker is entitled to receive [WAITING-WEEK CREDIT OR] benefits for a week of unemployment if for that week the insured worker is able to work and available for suitable work. An insured worker is not considered available for work unless registered for work in accordance with regulations adopted by the department. An insured worker may not be disqualified for failure to comply with this subsection if

(1) the insured worker is not available for work because the insured worker

(A) is ill or disabled;

(B) is traveling to obtain medical services that are not available in the area in which the insured worker resides, or, if a physician determines it is necessary, the insured worker is accompanying a spouse or dependent who is traveling to obtain medical services;

(C) resides in the state and is noncommercially hunting or fishing for personal survival or the survival of dependents;

(D) is serving as a prospective or impaneled juror in a court;
[OR]

(E) is attending the funeral of an immediate family member for a period of **not** [NO] longer than seven days;

(F) is, for two weeks or less, traveling outside of the area in which the insured worker customarily commutes and the insured worker has

(i) demonstrated that, during the relevant base

period, the insured worker was permitted, on average, to work remotely at least 50 percent of the time; or

(ii) accepted an offer of work that begins after the insured worker's return from travel, and the insured worker provides documentation that an earlier start date was not available; [AND]

(2) a condition described in (1)(A) - (E) [(1)] of this subsection occurs during an uninterrupted period of unemployment immediately following a week for which the insured worker has filed a compensable claim, and work has not been offered that would have been suitable for the insured worker before the illness, disability, hunting, fishing, medical travel, jury service, or funeral attendance.

* **Sec. 10.** AS 23.20.378(c) is amended to read:

(c) An insured worker is disqualified for [WAITING-WEEK CREDIT OR] benefits for a week of unemployment while the insured worker is pursuing an academic education. A disqualification under this subsection begins with the first week of academic instruction and ends with the week immediately before the first full week in which the insured worker is no longer pursuing an academic education. However, an insured worker who has been pursuing an academic education for at least one school term and who was working at least 30 hours a week during a significant portion of the time that the worker was pursuing an academic education is not disqualified for [WAITING-WEEK CREDIT OR] benefits under this subsection if the worker's academic schedule does not preclude full-time work in the worker's occupation and if the insured worker became unemployed because the worker was laid off or the worker's job was eliminated. In this subsection,

(1) "pursuing an academic education" means attending an established school in a course of study providing academic instruction of 10 or more credit hours per week, or the equivalent;

(2) "school" includes primary schools, secondary schools, and institutions of higher education.

* **Sec. 11.** AS 23.20.378 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(d) The department shall collect information about an insured worker's remote

work history when the insured worker files a claim for benefits.

* **Sec. 12.** AS 23.20.379(a) is amended to read:

(a) An insured worker is disqualified for [WAITING-WEEK CREDIT OR] benefits for the first five weeks [WEEK] in which the insured worker is unemployed [AND FOR THE NEXT FIVE WEEKS OF UNEMPLOYMENT FOLLOWING THAT WEEK] if the insured worker

(1) left the insured worker's last suitable work voluntarily without good cause; or

(2) was discharged for misconduct connected with the insured worker's last work.

* **Sec. 13.** AS 23.20.379(b) is amended to read:

(b) An insured worker is disqualified for [WAITING-WEEK CREDIT OR] benefits for a week and the next five weeks of unemployment following that week if, for that week, the insured worker fails without good cause

(1) to apply for available suitable work to which the insured worker was referred by the employment office; or

(2) to accept suitable work when offered to the insured worker.

* **Sec. 14.** AS 23.20.379(e) is amended to read:

(e) An insured worker is disqualified for [WAITING-WEEK CREDIT OR] benefits for the first week in which the insured worker is unemployed and for the next 51 weeks of unemployment following that week or until the individual has worked subsequent to the discharge from work and earned 20 times the insured worker's weekly benefit amount in employment covered under this chapter if the insured worker was discharged for commission of a felony or theft in connection with the work. In addition, the insured worker is not eligible for extended benefits under this chapter until the worker has requalified for benefits by meeting the earnings requirement in this subsection.

* **Sec. 15.** AS 23.20.382(a) is amended to read:

(a) Benefits [OR WAITING-WEEK CREDIT] for any week may not be denied an otherwise eligible individual because the individual is attending a vocational training or retraining course with the approval of the director of the division

1 responsible for employment and training services or because, while attending the
2 course, the individual is not available for work or refuses an offer of work.

3 * **Sec. 16.** AS 23.20.382(b) is amended to read:

4 (b) An otherwise eligible individual may not be denied benefits [OR
5 WAITING-WEEK CREDIT] for any week because the individual is in training
6 approved under 19 U.S.C. 2296(a)(1) (sec. 236(a)(1), Trade Act of 1974), if

7 (1) while attending the training, the individual is not available for
8 work, fails to seek work, or refuses work; or

9 (2) the individual left work that was not suitable employment to enter
10 training.

11 * **Sec. 17.** AS 23.20.382(d) is amended to read:

12 (d) An otherwise eligible individual may not be denied benefits [OR
13 WAITING-WEEK CREDIT] for any week because the individual is in any training
14 approved under P.L. 105-220 (Workforce Investment Act of 1998) and, while
15 attending the training, is not available for work, fails to seek work, or refuses work.

16 * **Sec. 18.** AS 23.20.383(a) is amended to read:

17 (a) An insured worker is disqualified for [WAITING-WEEK CREDIT OR]
18 benefits for a week of the insured worker's unemployment if, for that week, the
19 department finds the insured worker's unemployment is due to a stoppage of work
20 caused by a labor dispute at the immediate establishment or other premises at which
21 the insured worker is or was last employed. For the purposes of this section, each
22 separate department of the same premises that [WHICH] is commonly conducted as a
23 separate business in separate premises is considered a separate establishment or other
24 premises.

25 * **Sec. 19.** AS 23.20.520(7) is amended to read:

26 (7) "claimant" means an individual who has filed a request for a
27 determination of insured status, a notice of unemployment, [A CERTIFICATION
28 FOR WAITING-WEEK CREDIT,] or a claim for benefits;

29 * **Sec. 20.** AS 23.20.375(b) and 23.20.520(22) are repealed.

30 * **Sec. 21.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2025.