

HB

142

<TARGET><BILL>HB 142</BILL><SUBJECT>HB
142</SUBJECT><COMM>HL&C30</COMM></TARGET>



Representative Chris Tuck

House Majority Leader

Alaska State Legislature

District 23 - Representing Dimond Estates, Foxridge, Taku, Campbell, Northwood and Windemere

MEMORANDUM

March 8, 2017

**TO: Representative Sam Kito III
Chair, Labor & Commerce Committee**

**FROM: Rep. Chris Tuck
House Majority Leader**

Handwritten initials "C.T." in blue ink, circled.

SUBJ: Hearing Request for House Bill 142

I respectfully request a hearing for House Bill 142 Unemployment Compensation Benefits.

The Alaska Department of Labor's Unemployment Insurance (UI) program provides unemployment benefits to eligible workers who become unemployed through no fault of their own, working less than full-time, and meet certain other eligibility requirements. With the seasonal nature of much of the state's workforce and Alaska's vast remoteness, UI benefits serve not only to bridge the economic gap for the individual worker, but also as a stabilizing influence on local economies.

House Bill 142 would increase the maximum weekly benefit amount under the Unemployment Insurance Program in two steps from the current \$370 to \$458 in 2018 and to \$510 in 2019.

Included in the bill packet:

- House Bill 142 ver D
- Sponsor Statement
- One pager on Maximum Weekly Benefit Amount
- Baseline Forecast for MWBA – table
- Information on Unemployment Insurance
- Support & Opposition Letters
- Resolution from Alaska Workforce Investment Board

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me or my staff Kendra Kloster at 465-3579.

Thank you for your consideration.



Representative Chris Tuck

House Majority Leader

Alaska State Legislature

District 23 - Representing Dimond Estates, Foxridge, Taku,
Campbell, Northwood and Windemere

MEMORANDUM

April 11, 2017

TO: Representative Sam Kito III
Chair, Labor & Commerce Committee

FROM: Rep. Chris Tuck
House Majority Leader

SUBJ: Memo of Changes for HB142 

Two changes were made in the Labor and Commerce Committee Substitute.

1. Sec. 2, subsection (h) was amended to specify the department shall review and provide for increases annually.
2. Section 2, subsection (i) was revised to remove the requirement for publication of the notice of change to the benefit schedule in the Alaska Administrative Code as such notices are not published in the Administrative Code.



Representative Chris Tuck

House Majority Leader

Serving House District 23 • Dimond Estates, Foxridge, Taku, Campbell, Northwood, and Windemere

Sectional Analysis for CS HB 142

Increase to Alaska's Unemployment Insurance Maximum Weekly Benefit Amount

Increases the state's maximum weekly benefit amount (WBA) from \$370 to \$510 and increases the qualifying wage scale from \$42,000 to \$59,500. After the initial increase to \$510, future benefit increases are tied to an economic indicator based on the state's average weekly wage (AWW). Increases to the WBA shall not exceed 50% of the states average weekly wage from the prior calendar year.

Section 1: AS 23.20.350(d) – Amends the benefit schedule by increasing the maximum qualifying wage requirement from \$42,000 to \$59,500. The qualifying wage schedule is extended in \$250 increments to reach the new maximum qualifying amount. The benefit schedule is extended in \$2 increments for each additional \$250 of qualifying wages to reach a new maximum weekly benefit amount of \$510.

Section 2: Amends AS 23.20.350 by adding new subsections:

(h) Annually, after December 31, 2019, authorizes the Department to increase the highest WBA for individuals earning at least \$59,750. The new WBA calculation shall amend the highest base period wages in \$250 increments and the highest WBA in \$2 increments if the state's average weekly wage increases. The new maximum WBA shall not exceed 50% of the average weekly wage.

(i) Provides for public notice of any new benefit amounts calculated under (h) by December 1 of each year by posting a notice on the Alaska Online Public Notice System and allows for public comment on the accuracy of the Department's calculations.

New maximum WBAs apply to benefit years established on January 1 of each year and does not change existing claims.

Changes to the WBA shall be calculated only once per year.

(j) Establishes the calculation procedure for determining Alaska's average weekly wage by December 1 of each year. The average weekly wage is determined by dividing the average annual wage in the state for the preceding 12-month period ending June 30 by 52. The state must include wages of all employees in the state covered by this chapter, both public and private. If the calculation does not result in whole dollars, the amount shall be rounded down.

Section 3: Provides for an effective date of January 1, 2018.

Session (January-April):
State Capitol, Room 204
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone (907) 465-2095

Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov
www.RepChrisTuck.com
Toll-Free (866) 465-2095

Interim (May-December):
1500 W Benson Blvd, Ste 217
Anchorage, AK 99503
Phone (907) 269-0240

30-LS0530\O
Wayne
4/6/17

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 142()

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE TUCK

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to unemployment insurance benefits; increasing the maximum weekly**
2 **unemployment insurance benefit rate; and providing for an effective date."**

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

4 *** Section 1.** AS 23.20.350(d) is amended to read:

5 (d) An individual who is eligible under (a) of this section is entitled to receive
6 the weekly benefit amount set out in column (B) of the table in this subsection that is
7 opposite the amount set out in column (A) of the individual's base period wages
8 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

	WORK DRAFT	WORK DRAFT	30-LS0530\O
1	2,750	3,000	58
2	3,000	3,250	60
3	3,250	3,500	62
4	3,500	3,750	64
5	3,750	4,000	66
6	4,000	4,250	68
7	4,250	4,500	70
8	4,500	4,750	72
9	4,750	5,000	74
10	5,000	5,250	76
11	5,250	5,500	78
12	5,500	5,750	80
13	5,750	6,000	82
14	6,000	6,250	84
15	6,250	6,500	86
16	6,500	6,750	88
17	6,750	7,000	90
18	7,000	7,250	92
19	7,250	7,500	94
20	7,500	7,750	96
21	7,750	8,000	98
22	8,000	8,250	100
23	8,250	8,500	102
24	8,500	8,750	104
25	8,750	9,000	106
26	9,000	9,250	108
27	9,250	9,500	110
28	9,500	9,750	112
29	9,750	10,000	114
30	10,000	10,250	116
31	10,250	10,500	118

	WORK DRAFT	WORK DRAFT	30-LS0530\O
1	10,500	10,750	120
2	10,750	11,000	122
3	11,000	11,250	124
4	11,250	11,500	126
5	11,500	11,750	128
6	11,750	12,000	130
7	12,000	12,250	132
8	12,250	12,500	134
9	12,500	12,750	136
10	12,750	13,000	138
11	13,000	13,250	140
12	13,250	13,500	142
13	13,500	13,750	144
14	13,750	14,000	146
15	14,000	14,250	148
16	14,250	14,500	150
17	14,500	14,750	152
18	14,750	15,000	154
19	15,000	15,250	156
20	15,250	15,500	158
21	15,500	15,750	160
22	15,750	16,000	162
23	16,000	16,250	164
24	16,250	16,500	166
25	16,500	16,750	168
26	16,750	17,000	170
27	17,000	17,250	172
28	17,250	17,500	174
29	17,500	17,750	176
30	17,750	18,000	178
31	18,000	18,250	180

WORK DRAFT

WORK DRAFT

30-LS0530\O

1	18,250	18,500	182
2	18,500	18,750	184
3	18,750	19,000	186
4	19,000	19,250	188
5	19,250	19,500	190
6	19,500	19,750	192
7	19,750	20,000	194
8	20,000	20,250	196
9	20,250	20,500	198
10	20,500	20,750	200
11	20,750	21,000	202
12	21,000	21,250	204
13	21,250	21,500	206
14	21,500	21,750	208
15	21,750	22,000	210
16	22,000	22,250	212
17	22,250	22,500	214
18	22,500	22,750	216
19	22,750	23,000	218
20	23,000	23,250	220
21	23,250	23,500	222
22	23,500	23,750	224
23	23,750	24,000	226
24	24,000	24,250	228
25	24,250	24,500	230
26	24,500	24,750	232
27	24,750	25,000	234
28	25,000	25,250	236
29	25,250	25,500	238
30	25,500	25,750	240
31	25,750	26,000	242

	WORK DRAFT	WORK DRAFT	30-LS0530\O
1	26,000	26,250	244
2	26,250	26,500	246
3	26,500	26,750	248
4	26,750	27,000	250
5	27,000	27,250	252
6	27,250	27,500	254
7	27,500	27,750	256
8	27,750	28,000	258
9	28,000	28,250	260
10	28,250	28,500	262
11	28,500	28,750	264
12	28,750	29,000	266
13	29,000	29,250	268
14	29,250	29,500	270
15	29,500	29,750	272
16	29,750	30,000	274
17	30,000	30,250	276
18	30,250	30,500	278
19	30,500	30,750	280
20	30,750	31,000	282
21	31,000	31,250	284
22	31,250	31,500	286
23	31,500	31,750	288
24	31,750	32,000	290
25	32,000	32,250	292
26	32,250	32,500	294
27	32,500	32,750	296
28	32,750	33,000	298
29	33,000	33,250	300
30	33,250	33,500	302
31	33,500	33,750	304

WORK DRAFT

WORK DRAFT

30-LS0530\O

1	33,750	34,000	306
2	34,000	34,250	308
3	34,250	34,500	310
4	34,500	34,750	312
5	34,750	35,000	314
6	35,000	35,250	316
7	35,250	35,500	318
8	35,500	35,750	320
9	35,750	36,000	322
10	36,000	36,250	324
11	36,250	36,500	326
12	36,500	36,750	328
13	36,750	37,000	330
14	37,000	37,250	332
15	37,250	37,500	334
16	37,500	37,750	336
17	37,750	38,000	338
18	38,000	38,250	340
19	38,250	38,500	342
20	38,500	38,750	344
21	38,750	39,000	346
22	39,000	39,250	348
23	39,250	39,500	350
24	39,500	39,750	352
25	39,750	40,000	354
26	40,000	40,250	356
27	40,250	40,500	358
28	40,500	40,750	360
29	40,750	41,000	362
30	41,000	41,250	364
31	41,250	41,500	366

1	41,500	41,750	368
2	41,750	42,000	370
3	42,000	<u>42,250</u>	<u>372</u>
4	<u>42,250</u>	<u>42,500</u>	<u>374</u>
5	<u>42,500</u>	<u>42,750</u>	<u>376</u>
6	<u>42,750</u>	<u>43,000</u>	<u>378</u>
7	<u>43,000</u>	<u>43,250</u>	<u>380</u>
8	<u>43,250</u>	<u>43,500</u>	<u>382</u>
9	<u>43,500</u>	<u>43,750</u>	<u>384</u>
10	<u>43,750</u>	<u>44,000</u>	<u>386</u>
11	<u>44,000</u>	<u>44,250</u>	<u>388</u>
12	<u>44,250</u>	<u>44,500</u>	<u>390</u>
13	<u>44,500</u>	<u>44,750</u>	<u>392</u>
14	<u>44,750</u>	<u>45,000</u>	<u>394</u>
15	<u>45,000</u>	<u>45,250</u>	<u>396</u>
16	<u>45,250</u>	<u>45,500</u>	<u>398</u>
17	<u>45,500</u>	<u>45,750</u>	<u>400</u>
18	<u>45,750</u>	<u>46,000</u>	<u>402</u>
19	<u>46,000</u>	<u>46,250</u>	<u>404</u>
20	<u>46,250</u>	<u>46,500</u>	<u>406</u>
21	<u>46,500</u>	<u>46,750</u>	<u>408</u>
22	<u>46,750</u>	<u>47,000</u>	<u>410</u>
23	<u>47,000</u>	<u>47,250</u>	<u>412</u>
24	<u>47,250</u>	<u>47,500</u>	<u>414</u>
25	<u>47,500</u>	<u>47,750</u>	<u>416</u>
26	<u>47,750</u>	<u>48,000</u>	<u>418</u>
27	<u>48,000</u>	<u>48,250</u>	<u>420</u>
28	<u>48,250</u>	<u>48,500</u>	<u>422</u>
29	<u>48,500</u>	<u>48,750</u>	<u>424</u>
30	<u>48,750</u>	<u>49,000</u>	<u>426</u>
31	<u>49,000</u>	<u>49,250</u>	<u>428</u>

1	<u>49,250</u>	<u>49,500</u>	<u>430</u>
2	<u>49,500</u>	<u>49,750</u>	<u>432</u>
3	<u>49,750</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>434</u>
4	<u>50,000</u>	<u>50,250</u>	<u>436</u>
5	<u>50,250</u>	<u>50,500</u>	<u>438</u>
6	<u>50,500</u>	<u>50,750</u>	<u>440</u>
7	<u>50,750</u>	<u>51,000</u>	<u>442</u>
8	<u>51,000</u>	<u>51,250</u>	<u>444</u>
9	<u>51,250</u>	<u>51,500</u>	<u>446</u>
10	<u>51,500</u>	<u>51,750</u>	<u>448</u>
11	<u>51,750</u>	<u>52,000</u>	<u>450</u>
12	<u>52,000</u>	<u>52,250</u>	<u>452</u>
13	<u>52,250</u>	<u>52,500</u>	<u>454</u>
14	<u>52,500</u>	<u>52,750</u>	<u>456</u>
15	<u>52,750</u>	<u>53,000</u>	<u>458</u>
16	<u>53,000</u>	<u>53,250</u>	<u>460</u>
17	<u>53,250</u>	<u>53,500</u>	<u>462</u>
18	<u>53,500</u>	<u>53,750</u>	<u>464</u>
19	<u>53,750</u>	<u>54,000</u>	<u>466</u>
20	<u>54,000</u>	<u>54,250</u>	<u>468</u>
21	<u>54,250</u>	<u>54,500</u>	<u>470</u>
22	<u>54,500</u>	<u>54,750</u>	<u>472</u>
23	<u>54,750</u>	<u>55,000</u>	<u>474</u>
24	<u>55,000</u>	<u>55,250</u>	<u>476</u>
25	<u>55,250</u>	<u>55,500</u>	<u>478</u>
26	<u>55,500</u>	<u>55,750</u>	<u>480</u>
27	<u>55,750</u>	<u>56,000</u>	<u>482</u>
28	<u>56,000</u>	<u>56,250</u>	<u>484</u>
29	<u>56,250</u>	<u>56,500</u>	<u>486</u>
30	<u>56,500</u>	<u>56,750</u>	<u>488</u>
31	<u>56,750</u>	<u>57,000</u>	<u>490</u>

1	<u>57,000</u>	<u>57,250</u>	<u>492</u>
2	<u>57,250</u>	<u>57,500</u>	<u>494</u>
3	<u>57,500</u>	<u>57,750</u>	<u>496</u>
4	<u>57,750</u>	<u>58,000</u>	<u>498</u>
5	<u>58,000</u>	<u>58,250</u>	<u>500</u>
6	<u>58,250</u>	<u>58,500</u>	<u>502</u>
7	<u>58,500</u>	<u>58,750</u>	<u>504</u>
8	<u>58,750</u>	<u>59,000</u>	<u>506</u>
9	<u>59,000</u>	<u>59,250</u>	<u>508</u>
10	<u>59,250</u>	<u>59,500</u>	<u>510</u>
11	<u>59,500</u>		<u>510</u> [370].

* Sec. 2. AS 23.20.350 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

(h) Notwithstanding (d) of this section, annually, after December 31, 2019, the department shall increase weekly benefit amounts under (d) of this section by \$2 for each \$250 by which an individual's base period wages exceed \$59,500, to an amount not to exceed 50 percent of the average weekly wage determined under (j) of this section.

(i) Annually, in November, the department shall give notice to the public of the weekly benefit amounts under (d) and (h) of this section by posting on the Alaska Online Public Notice System (AS 44.62.175) and distributing copies of the notice without charge to persons who request copies and to publicly and privately owned news media organizations in the state. The notice must provide that any person may submit comments to the commissioner regarding the content of the notice.

(j) Annually, before November 1, the department shall determine the average annual wage paid to employees covered by this chapter for the most recent 12-month period that ended on June 30, and divide that wage by 52 to determine the average weekly wage.

* Sec. 3. This Act takes effect January 1, 2018.



Representative Chris Tuck

House Majority Leader

Serving House District 23 • Dimond Estates, Foxridge, Taku, Campbell, Northwood, and Windemere

Sponsor Statement House Bill 142 Unemployment Compensation Benefits

The Alaska Department of Labor's Unemployment Insurance (UI) program provides unemployment benefits to eligible workers who become unemployed through no fault of their own, working less than full-time, and meet certain other eligibility requirements. With the seasonal nature of much of the state's workforce and Alaska's vast remoteness, UI benefits serve not only to bridge the economic gap for the individual worker, but also as a stabilizing influence on local economies.

The current Maximum Weekly Benefit Amount (MWBA) of \$370 only replaces 36% of the state's average weekly wage of \$1,020. An MWBA of \$510 would provide 50% wage replacement of the average weekly wage, a nationally recognized norm.

To compare to other western states, the MWBA rate in Washington is \$681, Oregon is \$590, and California is \$450. In addition, Alaska is one of only three states where the cost of providing UI benefits is shared by employers and employees.

House Bill 142 would increase the maximum weekly benefit amount under the UI Program in two steps from the current \$370 to \$458 in 2018 and to \$510 in 2019.

Among 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, Alaska is:

- 39th in Maximum Weekly Benefit Amount
- 44th in Average Weekly Benefit Amount (\$252)
- 52nd in Wage Replacement Ratio (.288)
- 9th in Reciprocity Rate (unemployed workers receiving benefits - .37)

As a claimant filing for UI benefits, individuals are responsible for actively seeking suitable full-time employment and reporting activity for seeking employment each week to remain eligible.

The federal poverty level for a family of three in Alaska for 2016 is \$25,200, or \$2100 a month. An unemployed single parent with two dependent children receiving the MWBA of \$370 plus the dependent child allowance of \$24 per child under 18 (up to a maximum of three) receives approximately \$1800 per month in UI benefits.

By passing House Bill 142, Alaska will be more in-line with the average weekly benefits and provide the necessary financial support families need to survive while seeking employment.

Session (January-April):
State Capitol, Room 204
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone (907) 465-2095

Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov
www.RepChrisTuck.com
Toll-Free (866) 465-2095

Interim (May-December):
1500 W Benson Blvd, Ste 217
Anchorage, AK 99503
Phone (907) 269-0240

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2017 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 142
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB142-DOLWD-UI-03-01-17
Title: UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS
Sponsor: TUCK
Requester: House Labor & Commerce

Department: Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Appropriation: Employment and Training Services
Allocation: Unemployment Insurance
OMB Component Number: 2276

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2018	Included in	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
	Appropriation Requested	Governor's FY2018 Request	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2018	FY 2018					
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2017) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2018) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Not applicable, initial version.

Prepared By:	Ed Flanagan, Director	Phone:	(907)465-5543
Division:	Employment and Training Services	Date:	02/24/2017 02:45 PM
Approved By:	Heidi Drygas, Commissioner	Date:	03/01/17
Agency:	Department of Labor and Workforce Development		

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

**STATE OF ALASKA
2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

BILL NO. HB 142

Analysis

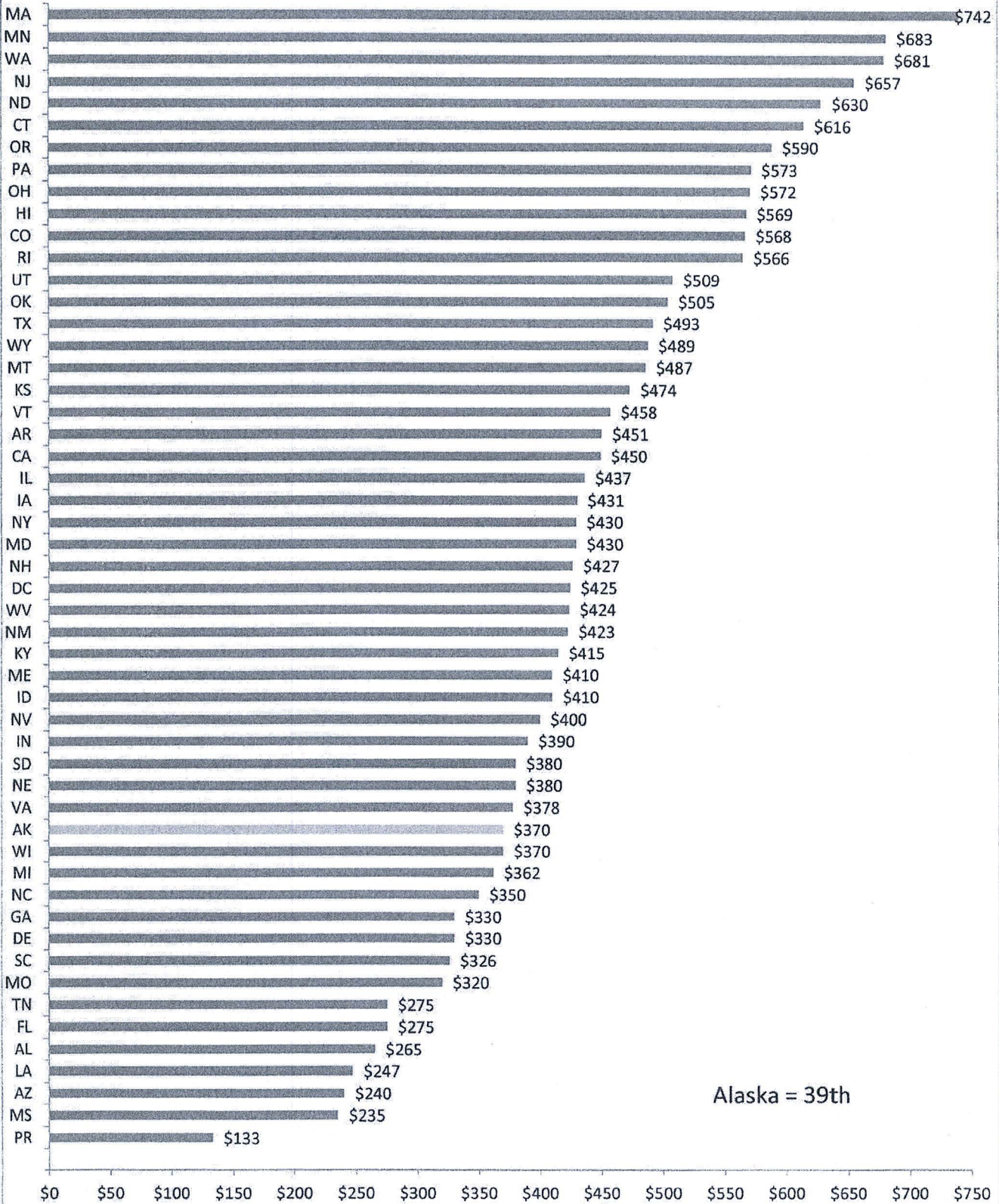
This legislation increases the maximum unemployment compensation weekly benefit amount from \$370 to \$510 effective January 1, 2018; and sets forth criteria to follow for increases in future years.

Costs associated with implementing this legislation will be covered within the current budget by the federal Unemployment Insurance administrative grant.

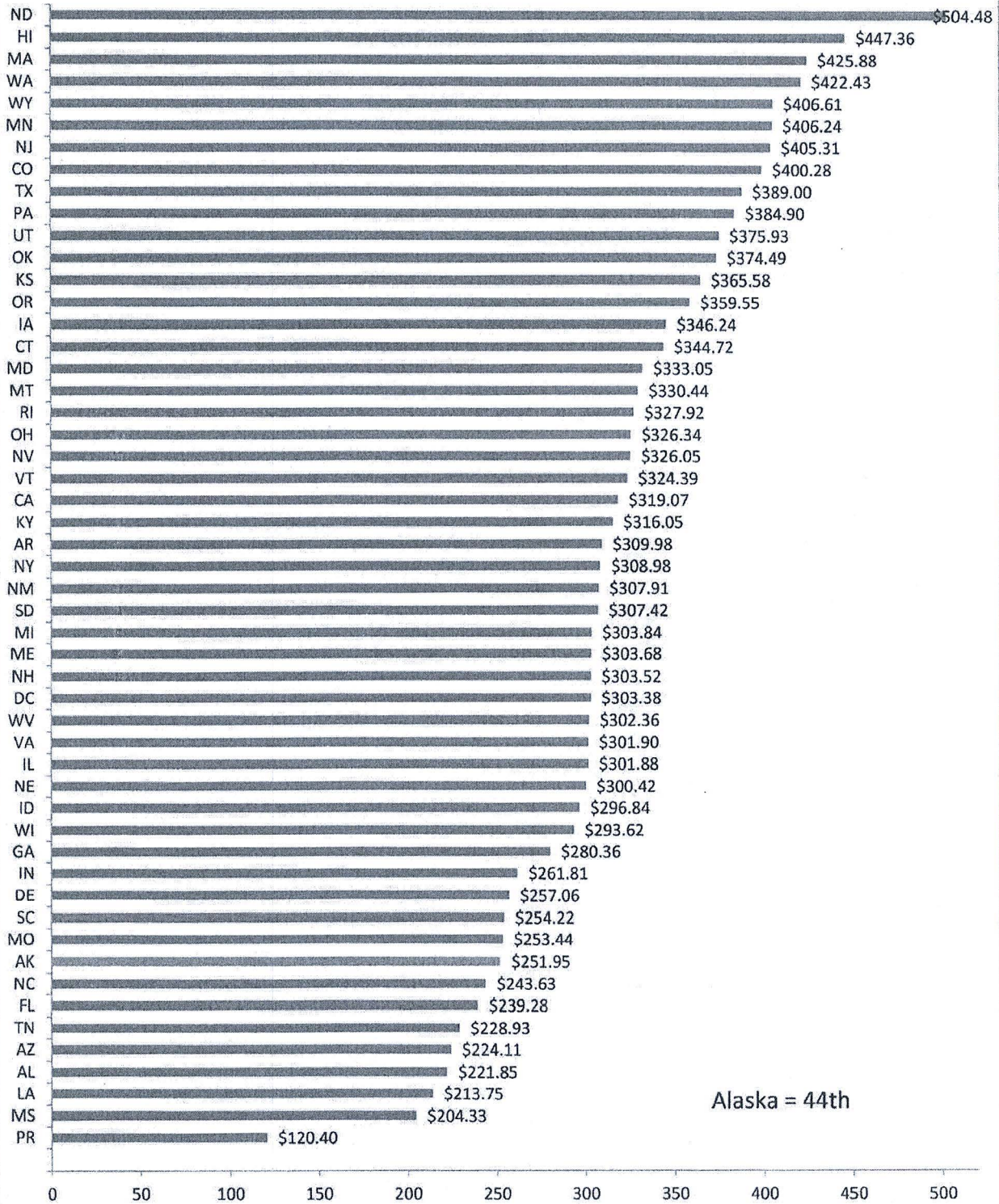
STATES WITH AUTOMATIC ADJUSTMENTS TO BENEFIT AMOUNTS

<u>STATE</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE OF STATE AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE</u>
1. Arizona	66⅔
2. Colorado	55
3. Connecticut	60. May not increase more than \$18 in a year.
4. District of Columbia	66⅔
5. Hawaii	70
6. Idaho	52 - 60. Depending on base tax rate in a given year.
7. Illinois	47 - 65.2. If claimant has dependent allowance, limited to 47%.
8. Iowa	53 - 65. 53% for claimant with dependents.
9. Kansas	60
10. Kentucky	62
11. Louisiana	66⅔
12. Maine	52
13. Massachusetts	57½
14. Minnesota	50% individual high quarter wages or 43% state AWW.
15. Montana	57½
16. Nevada	50
17. New Jersey	56
18. New Mexico	53½
19. North Carolina	66⅔
20. North Dakota	62 - 65. Depending on trust fund reserves.
21. Ohio	Not specified in law.
22. Oklahoma	50 - 57.7. Depending on trust fund reserves.
23. Oregon	64
24. Pennsylvania	66⅔. Uses Average Weekly Wage for prior 36 months.
25. Puerto Rico	50
26. Rhode Island	57.70
27. South Carolina	66⅔
28. South Dakota	50
29. Texas	47.60
30. Utah	62½ minus \$5
31. Vermont	Not specified in law.
32. Virgin Islands	65
33. Washington	63
34. West Virginia	66⅔
35. Wisconsin	66⅔ of average wage per average week.
36. Wyoming	55

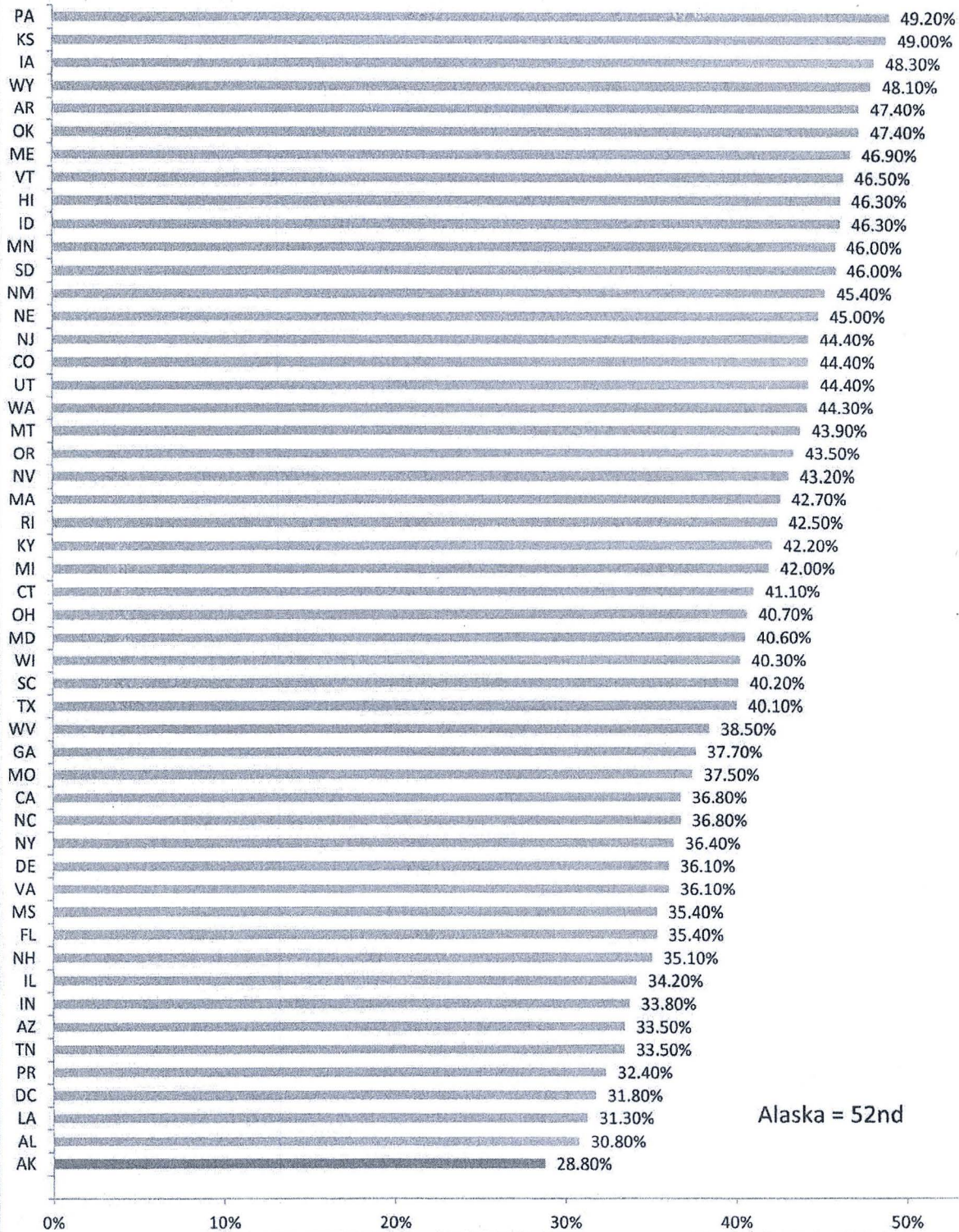
Maximum WBA



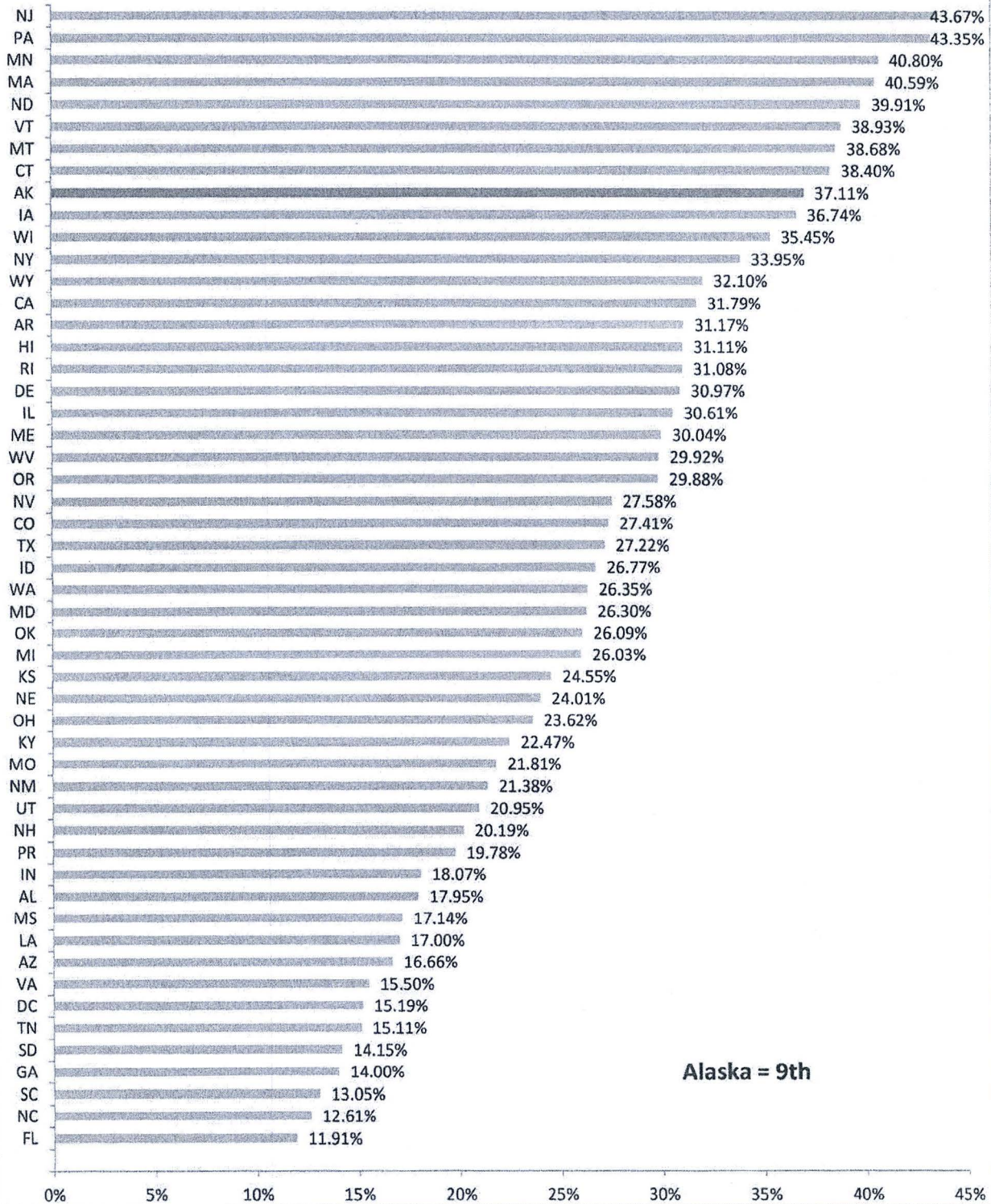
Average Weekly Benefit Amount



Replacement Ratio



Reciency Rate





Representative Chris Tuck

House Majority Leader

Serving House District 23 • Dimond Estates, Foxridge, Taku, Campbell, Northwood, and Windemere

Maximum Weekly Benefit Amount Proposal: Increase the Maximum Weekly Benefit Amount (MWBA) under the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Program effective January 1, 2018 from the current \$370 to \$510. After December 31, 2019, future increases to the MWBA will be determined annually not to exceed 50 percent of the state's average weekly wage (AWW). An MWBA of \$510 would provide 50% wage replacement of the current AWW of \$1,020.

- USDOL encourages a weekly benefit amount of 50% wage replacement.
- Twenty-four states have automatic adjustments to the Maximum Weekly Benefit Amount tied to the state's average weekly wage.
- The MWBA in Washington is \$681; Oregon \$590; California \$450.

Among 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, Alaska is

- 44th in Average Weekly Benefit Amount (\$252);
- 52nd in Wage Replacement Ratio (.247);
- 9th in Reciprocity Rate (unemployed workers receiving benefits - .37)
- 39th in MWBA
- The federal poverty level for a family of three in Alaska for 2016 is \$25,200, or \$2100 a month; currently, an unemployed single parent with two dependent children receiving the MWBA of \$370 plus the dependent child allowance of \$24 per child under 18 (up to a maximum of three) receives approximately \$1800 per month in UI benefits ($4.3 \times \$418 = \1797)
- Weekly benefits are determined according to a schedule based on earnings in the employee's base year. The current schedule begins with base year wages of \$2,500 (no UI benefits below that level) receiving a weekly benefit of \$56.
- For every additional \$250 in base year wages, \$2 is added to the weekly benefit, with the schedule maxing out at a base year wage of \$42,000 and \$370 weekly benefit (excluding dependent child allowances, if applicable).
- A worker who earned \$84,000 during their base year receives the same benefit as one who earned half as much in theirs.
- The MWBA was last increased with SB 120 in 2008 (effective 2009). SB 120 increased the MWBA from \$248 to \$370, by extending the schedule of base year wages from a maximum of \$27,000 to the current \$42,000.
- Alaska is one of only three states in which employees contribute to the benefit system:
 - Employees fund twenty-seven percent of the average benefit cost (employers 73%); Employee tax rate is not less than 0.5 percent or more than 1.0 percent of wages up to the taxable wage base limit
- An employer in the average tax class would pay an additional \$58 per employee earning the full Taxable Wage Base in 2019 (approximately \$40,000), and \$84 per employee in 2020. The estimated cost increases gradually to an additional \$235 in 2022 over the baseline forecast had there been no increase in MWBA. The estimated additional cost to employees earning the full Taxable Wage Base in 2022 will be \$30 over the baseline forecast.

Baseline Forecast												
For Tax Year (CY)	Benefit Costs (Benefits - Reimb. - Interest)	Benefit Costs for 3 previous SFY's	Average Benefit Cost Rate (ABCR)	Average Tax Class	Uniform Employee tax rate	Taxable wage base	Max Employer cost per employee	\$ diff	% diff	Max Employee Cost	Employee % of Contributions at the average rate class	MWBA \$
2016	\$115,441,001	\$412,102,379	1.85%	1.28%	0.50%	\$39,700	\$509	N/A	N/A	\$199	28.06%	\$370
2017	\$124,609,572	\$382,812,136	1.64%	1.01%	0.50%	\$39,800	\$402	N/A	N/A	\$199	33.11%	\$370
2018	\$125,583,501	\$365,634,074	1.52%	1.00%	0.50%	\$38,600	\$386	N/A	N/A	\$193	33.33%	\$370
2019	\$135,858,414	\$386,051,487	1.61%	1.00%	0.50%	\$37,900	\$379	N/A	N/A	\$190	33.33%	\$370
2020	\$147,822,358	\$409,264,273	1.75%	1.27%	0.50%	\$37,800	\$482	N/A	N/A	\$189	28.18%	\$370
2021	\$155,490,225	\$439,170,997	1.92%	1.49%	0.52%	\$37,800	\$564	N/A	N/A	\$196	25.79%	\$370
2022	\$142,636,524	\$445,949,107	1.97%	1.51%	0.53%	\$37,900	\$573	N/A	N/A	\$202	26.05%	\$370
2023	\$142,145,989	\$440,272,739	1.95%	1.47%	0.53%	\$37,900	\$557	N/A	N/A	\$199	26.38%	\$370
Forecast with expanded benefit Schedule												
2016	\$115,441,001	\$412,102,379	1.85%	1.28%	0.50%	\$39,700	\$509	\$0	0%	\$199	28.08%	\$370
2017	\$124,609,572	\$382,812,136	1.64%	1.01%	0.50%	\$39,800	\$402	\$0	0%	\$199	33.11%	\$370
2018	\$125,583,501	\$365,634,074	1.52%	1.00%	0.50%	\$38,600	\$386	\$0	0%	\$193	33.33%	\$510
2019	\$148,859,034	\$399,052,107	1.66%	1.15%	0.50%	\$37,900	\$437	\$58	15%	\$190	30.26%	\$510
2020	\$170,158,830	\$444,601,365	1.90%	1.50%	0.51%	\$37,800	\$565	\$84	17%	\$193	25.48%	\$510
2021	\$179,131,575	\$498,149,439	2.18%	2.00%	0.59%	\$37,800	\$756	\$192	34%	\$222	22.68%	\$510
2022	\$164,651,483	\$513,941,888	2.27%	2.13%	0.61%	\$37,900	\$808	\$235	41%	\$232	22.33%	\$510
2023	\$163,812,737	\$507,595,794	2.25%	2.09%	0.61%	\$37,900	\$791	\$234	42%	\$230	22.51%	\$510

*Proposal to expand the benefit schedule out to a maximum weekly benefit amount (MWBA) of \$510 in CY2018.

* In subsequent years, the MWBA can only change if in the most recent SFY, 50% of the average weekly wage calculates out to something greater than \$510 rounded to the nearest 2 dollars.

Unemployment Insurance Claimant Handbook



labor.alaska.gov/unemployment



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	4
Program integrity	4
Fraud	4
General	5
Benefit year	5
Amount/duration of benefits.....	5
Benefits are taxable.....	6
Social Security numbers.....	6
Dependents' allowance	6
Eligibility requirements and claimant responsibility	7
Ready and able to work	7
Registration for work	8
Work search contact requirements.....	8
Reemployment Services	9
Quit, fired, refused work	9
Attending school or training	9
Work, wages, income	9
Work	9
Wages	10
How wages affect your benefits.....	10
Excess earnings	11
Other deductible income	11
Travel/relocate.....	11
When to file a new claim or reopen your existing claim	12
File a new claim immediately if.....	12
You must reopen your existing claim immediately if.....	12
Information you need before filing	12

How to file a new claim or reopen your existing claim	13
myAlaska.....	13
Filing biweekly claims	14
Biweekly questions	14
How to report hours worked	15
How to report gross wages	15
How to report net income when self employed ...	15
How to report employment status.....	16
Filing online.....	16
Internet menu.....	16
Helpful information.....	17
Payment methods	17
Debit card.....	17
Direct deposit	17
Filing by phone — VICTOR.....	18
Info you need to file on VICTOR.....	18
VICTOR menu	19
Appeal rights	19
Audits	20
Quality Control audit.....	20
UI Crossmatch	21
Overpayment of benefits.....	21
Repayment	21
Extended Benefits (EB)	21
Alaska job centers	21
Claim center phone numbers	22
VICTOR phone numbers	22
Other UI contacts	22
Internet addresses	24

Benefits are taxable

When you file your federal income tax return, you must report 100 percent of the benefits paid. We will send you form 1099G by Jan. 31. You can print your 1099G online through myAlaska, when available. Keep us informed of your current address in order to receive your 1099G.

You may request that 10 percent of benefits be withheld for taxes. You can start or stop tax withholdings when filing online, or call your UI claim center. We cannot refund any money withheld.

Social Security numbers

To protect your privacy, Social Security numbers are no longer displayed on documents mailed to you. A client ID number is displayed instead. Your social security number will still be used in correspondence with your former employer and shared with other government agencies such as Social Security Administration and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Dependents' allowance

You may be eligible to receive an additional allowance of \$24 per week per child, for up to three children. A dependent is your natural child, stepchild (by marriage), legally adopted child or court-appointed legal ward. Your dependent must be unmarried and under the age of 18, unless they have a permanent disability. You may be requested to provide documentation for dependent allowance eligibility.

A dependent must reside with you, or you must certify that you provided more than 50 percent of the dependent's support over the past 12 months or since the loss of custody. If you certify to providing more than 50 percent support, you may be required to provide proof. You can add a dependent to your claim anytime during your benefit year before exhausting your regular benefits. To add a dependent, call your UI claim center.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS and CLAIMANT RESPONSIBILITY

As a claimant filing for UI benefits, you are responsible for:

1. Registering for work as directed by your local state workforce agency.
2. Actively seeking suitable full-time employment.
3. Reporting weekly employer work search contacts.
4. Reporting all work activity and earnings for each week you file.

IMPORTANT: U.S. Postal Service does not forward UI mail. It is your responsibility to maintain a current mailing address with our agency. You can update your address online while filing for benefits or call the UI claim center. Work registration requirements might change.

Ready and able to work

You must be physically able and available to seek and accept suitable full-time work.

Should you apply for or be a recipient of Workers' Compensation or Social Security Disability, you must report this to your claim center as your UI benefits may be affected.

Employers and department staff must be able to contact you. You must have transportation (car, bus, etc.) and child care available.

You may not be considered available for full-time work if you are incarcerated or have legal restrictions. Incarceration is being confined in a correctional center, city jail or community residential center. Legal restrictions would include, but are not limited to, electronic monitoring or subject to third-party custody.

Suitable work means work you are suited for by experience or training that meets the prevailing wage and working conditions for your locality and is realistic to your labor market. You are expected to be flexible in your work search and to accept suitable work even

if the pay is less than you earned in your last job. Self-employment is not considered suitable work.

Registration for work

If you are in Alaska and you are instructed to register for work, **you must register for work and post a resumé online in the Alaska Labor Exchange System (ALEXsys)**. If you have already posted your resumé in ALEXsys, you must make sure it is current and accessible online. You must have a resumé posted online in ALEXsys within seven days of filing your new or reopened claim. It is your responsibility to check your resumé often and verify the date your registration will inactivate on the "My Resumés" page in ALEXsys.

Your registration and resumés stay active while you are engaged in job search and referral activities in ALEXsys and/or while receiving reemployment services from job service staff.

If you are a member of a dispatching union you must be in good standing and on the out-of-work list. If you are outside of Alaska, you must register with the local state workforce agency office or with the local chapter of a dispatching union. Proof of out-of-state registration may be requested.

To register for work in ALEXsys go online to **jobs.alaska.gov** or call your nearest job center.

Work search contact requirements

You may be required to search for work each week you file for benefits. Work must be suitable based on your skills and capabilities. To be considered valid, contact must be made with a person who has the authority to hire, using a method of contact appropriate for the occupation (i.e., in person, telephone, fax, mail, email or employer website). If you do not search for work each week, benefits may be denied.

For each work search you are required to report:

- date of contact,
- name of employer contacted and
- method of contact.

Report your work searches when filing on BIF or VICTOR. For more information on work searches, visit: **labor.alaska.gov/unemployment/work_search.htm**.

Reemployment Services

Reemployment Services is a program for job seekers who are seeking information that will lead to the rapid return to suitable work. Employment and training resources are available through the Alaska Job Center Network both online and from Alaska's statewide job centers. If you are selected to participate in a Reemployment Services program, you must complete all requirements as instructed. Failure to do so may result in denial of your UI benefits.

Quit, fired, refused work

You must report if you quit your job, are fired or refuse work so a determination of eligibility can be made. Potential penalties include a six-week disqualification period beginning with the first week you are unemployed, plus a three-week reduction in benefits. You also may be ineligible for Extended Benefits. If you return to work during the six-week disqualification period, contact a UI claim center, as your disqualification may be lifted.

Attending school or training

You may be eligible to receive benefits while attending approved vocational or academic training. If you are enrolled in or attending school or training, report your school or training when you file your biweekly claim or call your UI claim center.

WORK, WAGES, INCOME

We compare what you report with other sources to verify accuracy. Refer to the section on Fraud (Page 4) for information relating to misrepresentation of work or earnings.

Work

Reportable work includes time spent on self-employment or volunteer activities as well as anything you do for wages, whether paid or not, during the seven days of the week you claim. Even if you are only working part-time or temporarily, all work and earnings, including tips, must be reported when you file your biweekly certifications.

Wages

Wages are any kind of payment you receive for the work you do, including room and board, goods, barter, tips, commission, stipend, honorarium, per diem, COLA, payment for jury duty, bonuses and back pay.

You must report your gross wages **earned** each week, Sunday through Saturday, whether or not you have actually been paid. Report the amount earned before any deductions are taken out (your gross pay). Report the employer's name and address, dates and number of hours worked per week, and your employment status.

If you are unsure of the number of hours worked or how much you earned, you can file up to seven days after the date you were paid. However, if you wait, you will need to call the UI claim center to file and report these wages, and your payment may be delayed.

When called to active duty, National Guard members must report encampments and wages earned. Do not report weekend drills.

If you are currently employed on an alternating or rotating work schedule – such as two weeks on, two weeks off – you may not be considered to be unemployed during your scheduled time off. Report your work schedule to your UI claim center.

How wages affect your benefits

You can earn \$50 without reducing your benefit payment, but you **must report** all the wages. Your benefit payment will be reduced by 75 cents for each dollar you earn over \$50. If you do not know how much you earned at the time you report, call the UI claim center within seven days with the correct wage amount. Reporting less money than you earned could result in an overpayment of benefits that you will have to repay.

Excess earnings

If you have gross wages equal to or more than $1\frac{1}{3}$ times your weekly benefit amount plus \$50, you will not receive a benefit payment for that week.

To locate your excess earnings amount, use your monetary determination or call VICTOR.

Other deductible income

When you are filing for benefits you must report the gross amount of any of the following payments: vacation, holiday, sick, pension, retirement, severance, commission, bonus, wages in lieu of notice and back pay awards. Changes in your gross pension amount must be immediately reported to the UI claim center. A deduction may be taken from your weekly benefits if you receive any of these payments. Social Security benefit payments are not deducted.

TRAVEL/RELOCATE

You must report all travel when filing for benefits. This includes any in-state travel. You are in travel status any time you travel outside the area in which you reside. You may be eligible while traveling if:

- You travel in search of work for up to four consecutive weeks. You must be legally eligible to accept work in the area of travel and actively search for work during each week you travel. Regulations do not allow for alternative work searches other than in person. Reasonable efforts to find work can be shown by making verifiable in-person contact with an employment service representative for the purpose of seeking work (e.g., two in-person employer contacts, in-person pre-arranged job interview or registering in person with the local chapter of your union).
- You travel to accept an offer of work beginning within 14 days of your departure.
- You travel to your home following discharge from the armed services.
- You were paid UI benefits the week prior to your travel, did not refuse an offer of work and you travel to:
 - obtain medical services, or accompany a spouse or dependent(s) to obtain medical services, that are not available where you

- live, on the advice of a health care provider.
- attend the funeral of an immediate family member for up to seven days.

If you travel or relocate outside the U.S., Canada, Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands, you are not eligible to collect benefits.

WHEN TO FILE A NEW CLAIM or REOPEN AN EXISTING CLAIM

File a new claim immediately if you are:

- Separated (quit, fired, laid off) from work.
- Working on-call or part-time.

You must reopen your claim immediately if:

- You stop filing biweekly claims for any reason and want to start filing again.
- You move out of Alaska, move from one state to another or move from one area to another within a state.
- You travel in search of work for more than four weeks.

INFO YOU NEED BEFORE FILING

- Your Social Security number
- If not a U.S. citizen, your alien registration number, work permit type, passport number and expiration date
- Name of your last employer, mailing address and phone number
- Dates of employment
- Hours and gross wages earned in your last week you worked
- Gross amount of holiday, vacation, severance or bonus received the last week you worked
- If you worked for the federal government in the past 18 months you will need SF8 or SF50
- If you were active duty military in the past 18 months you will need copy 4 of your DD214
- Retirement information if currently receiving retirement payments

HOW TO FILE A NEW CLAIM or REOPEN AN EXISTING CLAIM

For the fastest service, apply online. Our online services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You can also call a UI claim center and speak to a claim technician from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. AST, Monday through Friday. (See phone numbers in the claim center addresses and phone numbers section of this handbook.) Claims are effective Sunday of the week in which you open or reopen.

To file on the Internet, log in to **my.alaska.gov** and click "View Your Services," then "Unemployment Insurance Benefits."

IMPORTANT: *To submit applications online you must read and certify as instructed and click "I AGREE" to complete the application process. Keep a copy for your records and comply as instructed, or benefits may be denied. The confirmation page will provide important links such as ALEXsys, direct deposit and work search log.*

myAlaska

You must use the same myAlaska account each time you access the UI website. If you previously registered with myAlaska to apply for your Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend, or for other reasons, you may use the same account. Please store your myAlaska account information safely for future reference. To ensure your privacy and the security of your information, remember to log out of myAlaska when you finish your session.

IMPORTANT: *Whether filing online or by phone, you are responsible for the answers provided and payments made using your username, password and PIN. These electronic signatures have the same legal authority as your signature on paper. **Do NOT share your user name, password or PIN with anyone.***

FILING BIWEEKLY CLAIMS

Once you've opened a new claim or reopened an existing claim, you will be given dates as to when to file your biweekly claims. You must continue to file every two weeks to keep your claim active and to receive benefits. File within seven days after the last Saturday of your two-week claim period. Weeks that are filed late may be disqualified.

The first eligible week of a new claim is a "waiting week." You do not receive payment for this week. However, you must file to get credit for the week and meet the same requirements as any other week.

BIWEEKLY QUESTIONS

Each of the questions on the biweekly UI benefits application pertains only to the two weeks listed on the form. Depending on your answers, you may be asked additional questions or to complete a questionnaire.

- **Were you available and physically able to work full time each day?**
- **Did you miss work or refuse a job offer or job referral?**
If you turned down work or refused to be scheduled for work by an employer, answer yes.
- **Were you attending school or a training program?**
- **Did you travel or move to a different town?**
If you traveled outside the area in which you reside, traveled to accept a definite offer of work or if you relocated to a new town, answer yes.
- **Did you receive vacation, sick, retirement, bonus, holiday or severance pay?**
If you received any of the above payments report the income in the week it was received. Do not report Social Security. If you answer yes but do not report an amount, you will be advised to contact the UI claim center. Failure to contact the claim center as advised may result in the denial or late payment of your benefits.
- **Did you work for an employer, or were you self-employed?**

If you worked for an employer, you are required to report the amount you earned, hours you worked, the employer's name and address, and the last day you worked in the week you are claiming. You must report the wages that you earned in the week that you worked not when you are paid for the work. If you performed self-employment services, you must report the amount of hours you spent on your business and your net income.

- **Did you search for work?**

You are required to provide information on weekly work search contacts. (Please see work search contact requirements.)

How to report hours worked

When reporting your hours worked, or the hours you performed self-employment services, round down. For example, if you worked 3 hours and 45 minutes, enter 3 hours.

How to report gross wages

Your gross wage is the total amount you earned before any deductions have been made. You must report your gross wages earned each week, Sunday through Saturday, whether or not you have actually been paid.

Multiply the total amount of hours worked by the total hourly wage. Do not round down your hours worked for the purpose of calculating your gross wages. Report dollars and cents rounded down to the nearest lower penny.

For example: You worked 3 hours and 45 minutes in one week, and you earn \$10.25 an hour. Multiply total hours worked (3.75) by hourly wage (\$10.25) to obtain gross earnings (\$38.4375). Round hours down to nearest whole hour to report 3 hours; round wages down to nearest cent to report \$38.43.

How to report net income when self employed

To calculate your net income for the week, subtract your business expenses for that week from your total income earned for that week from your self-employment work.

If you did not and will not receive payment for the self-employment services, you must still report the hours you spent on your business.

How to report employment status

After reporting that you worked for an employer you will be asked about your employment status. You will be given the following options: laid off, working on call, working part time, quit or fired.

If you are a part-time or on-call employee and work 40 hours or more in a week, do not report your status as full-time.

Misreporting the status of your employment may result in a delay in payment.

Failing to report that you were fired or quit your job may result in the requirement to repay benefits paid to you in error, and you may be subject to penalties for fraud.

FILING ONLINE

The Internet is a quick and easy full-service way to file for benefits and manage your account. Log in to **my.alaska.gov**, and click "View Your Services," then "Unemployment Insurance Benefits."

INTERNET MENU

(Options may be different based on your claim status)

- File a new claim or reopen an existing claim
- File Extended Benefits (if available)
- File for biweekly UI benefits
- Current Claim Status and Work Search Requirements— shows last payment, current mailing address and account status
- Direct Deposit — start, change or verify direct deposit account
 - *If you cancel your direct deposit, you will be sent a debit card*
- Debit card Enrollment
- Debit card holder account information
- Help finding a job, ALEXsys
- 1099G Tax information (if available)

Helpful information

Changes to your mailing and/or physical address can be done online by completing a claim application; your registration requirements may be affected.



Help Icon will provide additional instructions and requirements.

IMPORTANT: *It is your responsibility to read all UI mail, and to contact the UI claim center any time you are instructed to do so. Failure to do so may result in denial of your UI benefits.*

PAYMENT METHODS

Payments will be automatically dispensed through a debit card unless direct deposit is established. Electronic payment is typically deposited within three business days of filing your biweekly certifications. You can sign up for direct deposit or a debit card online.

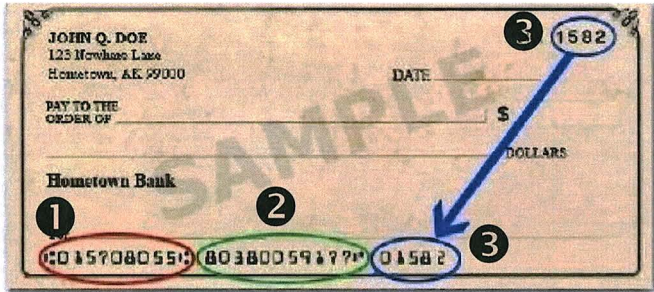
Debit card

Unless you establish direct deposit, a debit card and information packet will be mailed to you when you file a claim for benefits. Included in the packet is information on how to activate your card and contact numbers for customer service.

Direct deposit

You can set up, reactivate or cancel your direct deposit online by selecting "Direct Deposit," or you can call VICTOR and select option three (3). You will need the following information to establish direct deposit:

1. The routing number is 9 digits surrounded by |:
2. The account number (do not include hyphens or other special characters)
3. Do not enter the check number



IMPORTANT: Direct deposit is automatically suspended if it has not been used for a year or more. Your benefits will be issued by debit card until direct deposit is re-established.

FILING BY PHONE — VICTOR

If you are unable to file online, you can file by phone using the automated filing system VICTOR. VICTOR is not full service and available limited hours — Wednesday through Saturday, 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Alaska Standard Time (AST). For VICTOR phone numbers, see Page 22.

For access to convenient UI services 24 hours a day, seven days a week, visit our online Benefit Internet Filing (BIF) system through your myAlaska account. For additional help, contact your UI claim center Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. AST.

Information you need to file on VICTOR

- Your Social Security number
- Your self-chosen four digit PIN number
 - SETTING UP YOUR PIN: If this is your first time calling VICTOR and you have not set up a PIN, you will be prompted to enter a four-digit number of your choosing
 - You are responsible for the answers provided and UI payments made using your Social Security number and PIN
 - Do not share your PIN with anyone
 - If you have trouble setting up your PIN contact the UI claim center

IMPORTANT: If you hang up before VICTOR tells you your claim has been accepted, your answers will not be recorded and your claim will not be processed. You will need to call back and file again. If you are instructed by VICTOR to call the UI claim center, you must call within seven days. Your benefits will be denied if you do not contact the UI claim center as instructed. If you report less money than you earned, you will be required to repay the benefit amount and may be subject to penalties for fraud.

VICTOR menu

1. To file biweekly claims
2. For information about your claim
 - Payment status of weeks claimed — You will be given information about the last two weeks you claimed
 - Excess earnings amount
 - 1099G amount — the amount of benefits and withholdings reported to the IRS on form 1099G
3. Start, change or cancel direct deposit
 - Option to set up, cancel or confirm direct deposit to your personal bank account
 - Current status of debit card
 - You cannot cancel or request a debit card through VICTOR
4. Current mailing address
5. Change your VICTOR PIN
 - You may change your previously established PIN
 - When changing your PIN, choose a four-digit number you have not previously used
 - Once you set up your PIN it is in effect until you change it
 - If you do not know your PIN contact the UI claim center for assistance
6. Speak to a claim center representative

APPEAL RIGHTS

You may appeal any written determination that denies or restricts your benefits. You must phone, fax, mail or email your request for an appeal to

your UI claim center or an Appeals office within 30 days of the decision. (For contact information, see the *other UI contacts* section of this handbook.)

Appeals will schedule a hearing and mail a notice to you (contact Appeals if not received within 10 days). After the hearing, you will receive a decision in the mail. If you disagree with the decision, you have the right to further appeal.

- Continue to file your biweekly claims throughout the appeal process.
- If the decision goes in your favor, weeks which were not filed timely cannot be paid.

Per Alaska Statute 23.20.110(r), appeal hearing decisions are public information and are posted on the Internet at: uiappeals.labor.alaska.gov.

AUDITS

Quality Control Audit

Under federal requirements, your claim may be randomly selected at anytime and audited to make sure that all payments or denial of benefits have been made properly. All information you have provided is checked for accuracy. The examinations are thorough and may involve an interview with you and other interested parties. Failure to respond to a Quality Control audit request for information will result in a denial of benefits.

For more information, contact QC:

Email: dol.qc@alaska.gov
Website: labor.alaska.gov/qc/claimants.htm
Juneau: P.O. Box 115509
JUNEAU, AK 99811-5509
Phone: (907) 465-3000
Fax: (907) 465-2247
Toll Free: (800) 478-2999

UI Crossmatch

Crossmatch compares the earnings you reported with your employers' reports of earnings. This process discovers errors in reported earnings which may have resulted in a misplayment of benefits. This also is done for persons who may have worked in other states. If you fail to report earnings correctly, a 50-percent penalty may be assessed and future benefits denied.

OVERPAYMENT OF BENEFITS

Repayment

You are entitled only to benefits for which you are eligible. You must repay all benefits that are overpaid even if you were paid in error. Overpayments are legally enforceable debts. Payment arrangement can be made by contacting a Benefit Payment Control claims technician Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. AST, at (888) 810-6789 or (907) 465-2863 in Juneau.

EXTENDED BENEFITS (EB)

EB provides additional benefits during times of high unemployment for those who exhaust their regular benefits. These benefits are available only while this program is active. When the program becomes active you will be mailed EB instructions.

ALASKA JOB CENTERS

If you are interested in seeking work, job training or advancing in a career, check in with one of the Alaska job centers listed online at:

jobs.state.ak.us/offices/index.html
or call **(877) 724-2539**

CLAIM CENTER PHONE NUMBERS

If you need assistance regarding your claim, call the number closest to your community or visit us online at:

**labor.alaska.gov/unemployment/
call-centers.htm**

Anchorage UI Claim Center (907) 269-4700
Fairbanks UI Claim Center (907) 451-2871
Juneau UI Claim Center (907) 465-5552
Toll free for remote locations: (888) 252-2557
(888) 25CALLS
Fax (888) 353-2937 / (888) 35FAXES

Telephone hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Monday-Friday (except holidays).

VICTOR PHONE NUMBERS

Call the number closest to your community:

Anchorage (907) 277-0693
Fairbanks (907) 451-6126
Juneau (907) 586-4650

If you are located in a remote location that has been determined to be underserved for Broadband Internet service you may still have access to the toll-free number: (888) 222-9989.

OTHER UI CONTACTS

APPEALS

Email: appeals@alaska.gov
Website: labor.alaska.gov/appeals
Juneau: P.O. Box 115509
JUNEAU, AK 99811-5509
Fax: (907) 465-3374
Toll free: (800) 232-4762

BENEFIT PAYMENT CONTROL

Juneau: P.O. Box 115505
JUNEAU, AK 99811-5505
Phone: (907) 465-2863
Fax: (907) 465-6010
Toll Free: (888) 810-6789
Email: uifraud@alaska.gov
Website: [labor.alaska.gov/
unemployment/bpc.htm](http://labor.alaska.gov/unemployment/bpc.htm)

Anchorage: 3301 Eagle St., #205
ANCHORAGE, AK 99503

Phone: (907) 269-4880
Fax: (907) 269-4835
Outside Anchorage: (877) 272-4635

Fairbanks: 675 7th Ave., Station L
FAIRBANKS, AK 99701

Phone: (907) 451-2952
Fax: (907) 451-2883
Outside Fairbanks: (877) 272-4635

Relay Alaska for the deaf and hard of hearing:

*If you need assistance with your unemployment claim, dial **711** from inside Alaska or **(800) 770-8255** (toll-free) from outside the state.*

Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Division of Employment and Training Services
P.O. Box 115509, Juneau, AK 99811-5509

Printed for the Alaska DOLWD Division of Employment and Training Services, in Juneau, Alaska, in August 2015, at a cost of \$0.16 per copy.

We are an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Form 210-804 (Rev. 7/2016)

RESOLUTION NUMBER 17-03

RESOLUTION Supporting an Increase in Alaska's Maximum Weekly Benefit Amount under the Unemployment Insurance Program

WHEREAS, the Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB) is an industry-driven public organization comprised of representatives from business and industry, education, organized labor, and government; and

WHEREAS, the AWIB is a public organization that is accountable through its members and staff to the residents, the Legislature and the Governor of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the AWIB shall act as the lead state planning and coordinating entity for state programs involving employment training, vocational education, and workforce development; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's economy is in recession, having lost approximately 6,800 jobs in 2016; and

WHEREAS, Alaska currently has the highest unemployment rate in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of Unemployment Insurance is to provide individuals and businesses with economic stability; to keep Alaskan dollars in the Alaskan economy, and to help buffer normal economic "boom and bust" cycles; and

WHEREAS, Unemployment Insurance can help reduce the social and familial consequences associated with unemployment such as financial stress, the need to travel for work, the inability to maintain housing, and poor academic performance and behavioral issues in children; and

WHEREAS, keeping skilled workers, many of whom represent training investments from local organizations, in Alaska is beneficial to our state's industries, and can improve rates of Alaska resident hire; and

WHEREAS, replacing 50% of the Average Weekly Wage with Unemployment Insurance payments is the nationally recognized norm, and Alaska's current Maximum Weekly Benefit Amount of \$370 represents 36% of our state's Average Weekly Wage; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's Unemployment Insurance Program payments rank 39th in the nation (including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico) in the Unemployment Insurance Maximum Weekly Benefit Amount, 44th in the Average Weekly Benefit Amount, and 52nd, last, in unemployment insurance wage replacement ratio; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's Maximum Weekly Benefit Amount has not been increased since 2009; and

WHEREAS, Alaska is one of only three states to share unemployment insurance costs between employers and employees;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the AWIB urges the Alaska Legislature and Governor of Alaska to pass legislation to raise the Maximum Weekly Benefit Amount to no less than 50% of the state's Average Weekly Wage or \$510 per week;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the AWIB recommends the State maintain the current ratio of 73% employer contribution, 27% employee contribution to the Unemployment Insurance Program cost

CERTIFICATION

The Alaska Workforce Investment Board held a meeting duly and regularly called, noticed, and convened this 16th day of February, 2017 and the foregoing Resolution was adopted unanimously at said meeting.

Signed this 16th day of February, 2017.



Larry Bell, Chair
Alaska Workforce Investment Board

Kendra Kloster

From: Gary Miller <gmiller.juneauak@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 07, 2017 4:14 PM
To: Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Jason Grenn; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Lance Pruitt; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. David Eastman; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Zach Fansler; Rep. DeLena Johnson; Rep. Jennifer Johnston; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Gary Knopp; Rep. Chuck Kopp; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep. Justin Parish; Rep. George Rauscher; Rep. Lora Reinbold; Rep. Dan Saddler; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Dean Westlake; Rep. Adam Wool
Subject: HB 142

I support HB 142, "...increasing the maximum weekly unemployment insurance benefit rate..."

With the high cost of living in Alaska, we should be leading the nation with a high weekly benefit amount.

I worked at the Alaska Department of Labor for 22 years before moving to the Department of Revenue. I saw firsthand how people who lost their jobs and needed help feeding their family got help through their U.I. check. As you are aware, U.I. is self-funded through taxes paid by both the employer and the employee. This will not affect the \$3 billion budget shortfall.

Please vote to pass this legislation.

Thank you.

Gary Miller
20135 Cohen Dr
Juneau, AK 99801-8211
(907) 789-3757

NFIB

The Voice of Small Business.®

ALASKA

March 3, 2017

The Honorable Chris Tuck
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE: House Bill 142

Dear Representative Tuck:

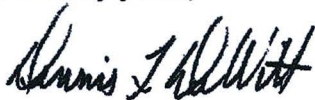
On behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business/Alaska, I wish to respectfully share our opposition to House Bill 142. The National Federation of Independent Business is the largest small-business advocacy group in Alaska.

House Bill 142 would increase the unemployment benefit and, consequently, the tax on small Alaskan businesses. It further provides future increases would be moved outside the legislative process.

As you are aware, Alaska is in a recession that is slowing businesses in Alaska, making it more difficult to remain in business, let alone, expand business. Thus it is not a time to add additional taxes to struggling businesses. In the past, there has been restructuring of the program to minimize the potential increase in the tax rate. There are no such changes included in this proposal.

We strongly oppose the Section 2 as it cedes any future increases to a regulatory formula rather than being considered by the legislature. Allowing programs to grow without legislative review is poor public policy. Further, it prevents a discussion of the wisdom of the status of the economy and how it is affected by such changes.

Sincerely yours,



Dennis L. DeWitt
Alaska State Director

Cc: NFIB/AK Leadership Council
House Labor & Commerce Committee

Refrigeration & Food Equipment Inc.

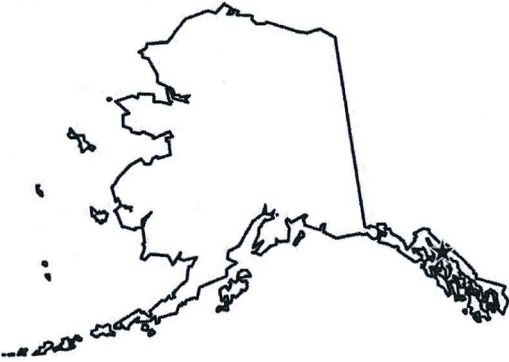
1901 W. Tudor Road

Anchorage, AK 99517

Ph: (907) 248-2525

Fax: (907) 243-6709

Email: tim.agosti@alaskan.com



March 22, 2017

Representative Gary Knopp
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE: House Bill 142

Dear Representative Knopp:

I would like to express my opposition to HB142 for its unintended costs for small business. By increasing the base amount we have to pay on our payrolls, it equates to a tax on small business because of the higher percentage employers have to pay.

Alaska is in a recession now and business is slowing, making it difficult to remain in business, let alone, expand. Thus it is not a time to add additional taxes to struggling businesses. Why not restructure the program to make it revenue neutral?

I also strongly oppose the Section 2 as it cedes future increases to a formula rather than being considered by the legislature. This prevents any discussion of whether it is prudent based on the status of the economy and how small business is affected by such changes.

Respectfully,

Tim Agosti

Tim Agosti

President

Home Address:

36894 Virginia Drive

Kenai, AK 99611

CC: Representative Chris Tuck



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of Labor and
Workforce Development**

Division of Employment and Training Services

1111 W 8th Street, Suite 210
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Phone: 907.465.5543

April 5, 2017

Honorable Representative Sam Kito
Alaska State Capitol, Room 403
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: House Bill 142, corrections to March 29, 2017 hearing testimony

Dear Representative Kito:

This is to provide correction to statements made during testimony on House Bill (HB) 142 on March 29, 2017. In response to a question regarding the duration of unemployment benefits, I stated the minimum duration of weeks potentially allowable on an unemployment insurance claim was 18. The minimum duration is 16 weeks.

In response to questions raised by Representative Birch regarding the impact of the diversions from the employee's portion of unemployment insurance contributions for the State Training and Employment Program (STEP) and Technical and Vocational Education Program (TVEP) I stated that employees may pay more in the long run if trust fund solvency required additional contributions, in which case those would be apportioned 73% to employers and 27% to employees. In fact, the trust fund solvency factor does not work this way. While determination of tax rates is based upon a 73/27 split of the actual benefit costs to the program, when the trust fund solvency formula requires funding in addition to regular tax payments, a solvency factor is applied to employer rates only. Employees do not pay more in this case, as their contribution rate is solely reflective of program costs, and is not impacted by the diversion of part of their tax contributions for STEP and TVEP.

I apologize for the errors in my testimony. Please let me know if this letter is sufficient correction, or if you would like to address this on the record at the next hearing for HB 142.

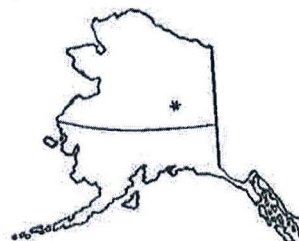
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Flanagan".

Ed Flanagan
Director



**FAIRBANKS BUILDING
& CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL
AFL-CIO**



Lake Williams
President

Scott Eickholt
Secretary/Treasurer

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO INCREASE
THE MAXIMUM WEEKLY UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT**

Whereas, the US Department of Labor encourages a weekly benefit amount of 50% wage replacement; and

Whereas, twenty-four states have automatic adjustments to the maximum weekly benefit amount tied to the state's average weekly wage; and

Whereas, Alaska residents endure one of the highest cost of living expenses in the Nation; and

Whereas, Alaska ranks: 44th in Average Weekly Benefit Amount (currently \$252), and 52nd in Wage Replacement Ratio (.247); and

Whereas, Alaska significantly trails Washington (\$681), Oregon (\$590); and California (\$450); and

Whereas, a worker who earned \$84,000 during their base year receives the same benefit as a worker who earned half as much in theirs; and

Whereas, Alaska is one of only three states in which employees contribute to the benefit system and currently fund twenty-seven percent of the average benefit costs; and

Whereas, an employer in the average tax class would pay an additional \$58 per employee earning the full taxable wage base in 2019 (approximately \$40,000), and \$84 per employee in 2020; and

Whereas, Alaska is in an economic downturn and our laid-off skilled craft workers need financial security until the next project starts; and

Whereas, if local craft workers can't afford to live in Alaska then they are more likely to move to the continental US, and like so many former Alaskan residents become transient out of state workers; and

Whereas, to be successful our Local Contractors must maintain a pool of skilled workers even when time are lean; and

Therefore be it resolved, the Fairbanks Building and Construction Trades Council requests the Alaska House to pass HB 142, and asks the Alaska Senate to introduce and pass a companion bill.

Adopted this 15th day of March, 2017

President, Fairbanks Building and Construction Trades Council