

Senate Bill 518

By: Senator Golden of the 8th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 8 of Title 34 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 employment security, so as to change the provisions relating to benefit experience and  
3 variations from the standard rate; to provide for suspension of the tax surcharge from January  
4 1 through December 31, 2003; to change the weekly benefit amount; to provide for related  
5 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 8 of Title 34 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to employment  
9 security, is amended by striking subsection (f) of Code Section 34-8-155, relating to benefit  
10 experience and variations from the standard rate, and inserting in its place the following:

11 "(f)(1) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (2) of this subsection, contribution rates for  
12 experience rated employers for the time periods:

13 (A) January 1, 2000, to December 31, 2000;

14 (B) January 1, 2001, to December 31, 2001;

15 (C) January 1, 2002, to December 31, 2002; and

16 (D) January 1, 2003, to December 31, 2003; and

17 ~~(E) January 1, 2004, to December 31, 2004~~

18 shall not be imposed above the level of 1.0 percent of statutory contribution rates.

19 ~~(2) In addition to and not in substitution of the provisions of paragraph (4) of subsection~~  
20 ~~(d) of Code Section 34-8-156, if at any time during the five-year time period commencing~~  
21 ~~January 1, 2000, and ending December 31, 2004, the State-wide Reserve Ratio equals~~  
22 ~~1.25 or less, the provisions of paragraph (1) of this subsection shall become null and void~~  
23 ~~and of no further purpose or effect for any subsequent time periods identified therein; and~~  
24 ~~provided further, the~~ The Governor shall have authority to suspend by executive order  
25 any future portion of ~~said~~ the reduction in calculated rates ~~as provided for~~ in paragraph  
26 (1) of this subsection in the event the Governor determines, upon the recommendation of

1 the Commissioner, that suspension of said reduction is in the best interests of the State  
2 of Georgia."

3 **SECTION 2.**

4 Said chapter is further amended by striking subparagraph (d)(4)(B) of Code Section  
5 34-8-156, relating to the State-wide Reserve Ratio, and inserting in lieu thereof the  
6 following:

7 "(B) Except for any year or portion of a year during which the provisions of paragraph  
8 (1) of subsection (f) of Code Section 34-8-155 apply, when the State-wide Reserve  
9 Ratio, as calculated above, is less than 1.7 percent, there shall be an overall increase in  
10 the rate, as of the computation date, for each employer whose rate is computed under  
11 a rate table in Code Section 34-8-155 in accordance with the following table:

12 If the State-wide Reserve Ratio:

13	Equals or	But Is	Overall
14	<u>Exceeds</u>	<u>Less Than</u>	<u>Increase</u>
15	1.5 percent	1.7 percent	25 percent
16	1.25 percent	1.5 percent	50 percent
17	0.75 percent	1.25 percent	75 percent
18	Under 0.75 percent		100 percent

19 provided, however, that for the period of January 1 through December 31, 2003, the  
20 overall increase in the rate required under this subparagraph shall be suspended and the  
21 provisions of this subparagraph shall be null and void."

22 **SECTION 3.**

23 Said chapter is further amended in subsection (c) of Code Section 34-8-193, relating to the  
24 determination of weekly benefit amounts, by striking "and" at the end of paragraph (8), by  
25 striking the period at the end of paragraph (9) and inserting in lieu thereof "; and", and by  
26 inserting immediately following paragraph (9) and immediately before the proviso the  
27 following:

28 "(10) For claims filed on or after July 1, 2003, the maximum weekly benefit amount shall  
29 not exceed \$290.00; and

30 (11) For claims filed on or after July 1, 2004, the maximum weekly benefit amount shall  
31 not exceed \$300.00."

32 **SECTION 4.**

33 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.