

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.