

House Bill 1725

By: Representative Smith of the 12th

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 by striking subsection (c) of Code Section 34-8-193, relating
24 to determination of the weekly benefit amount, and inserting in its place the following:

25 "(c) Weekly benefit amount entitlement as computed in this Code section shall not exceed
26 these amounts for the applicable time period:

27 (1) For claims filed on or after July 1, 1990, but before July 1, 1994, the maximum
28 weekly benefit amount shall not exceed \$185.00;

29 (2) For claims filed on or after July 1, 1994, but before July 1, 1995, the maximum
30 weekly benefit amount shall not exceed \$195.00;

31 (3) For claims filed on or after July 1, 1995, but before July 1, 1996, the maximum
32 weekly benefit amount shall not exceed \$205.00;

33 (4) For claims filed on or after July 1, 1996, but before July 1, 1997, the maximum
34 weekly benefit amount shall not exceed \$215.00;

- 1 (5) For claims filed on or after July 1, 1997, but before July 1, 1998, the maximum
2 weekly benefit amount shall not exceed \$224.00;
- 3 (6) For claims filed on or after July 1, 1998, but before July 1, 1999, the maximum
4 weekly benefit amount shall not exceed \$244.00;
- 5 (7) For claims filed on or after July 1, 1999, but before July 1, 2000, the maximum
6 weekly benefit amount shall not exceed \$264.00;
- 7 (8) For claims filed on or after July 1, 2000, but before July 1, 2001, the maximum
8 weekly benefit amount shall not exceed \$274.00; ~~and~~
- 9 (9) For claims filed on or after July 1, 2001, but before July 1, 2002, the maximum
10 weekly benefit amount shall not exceed \$284.00;
- 11 (10) For claims filed on or after July 1, 2002, but before July 1, 2003, the maximum
12 weekly benefit amount shall not exceed \$290.00;
- 13 (11) For claims filed on or after July 1, 2003, the maximum weekly benefit amount shall
14 not exceed \$300.00.
- 15 ~~Provided, however, for the period on or after January 1, 2000, whenever the State-wide~~
16 ~~Reserve Ratio, as defined in Code Section 34-8-156, is 1.25 percent or less, no future~~
17 ~~increase in the weekly benefit amount shall be effective until the State-wide Reserve Ratio~~
18 ~~is over 1.25 percent."~~

19

SECTION 4.

20 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.