

Senate Bill 167

By: Senators Lamutt of the 21st, Golden of the 8th, Shafer of the 48th, Balfour of the 9th and Seabaugh of the 28th

AS PASSED SENATE

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 provide for an extension of the reduction in contribution rates
3 through December 31, 2004; to extend the suspension of the surcharge based upon the state-
4 wide reserve ratio; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
5 purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Said chapter is further amended by striking subparagraph (d)(4)(B) of Code Section
9 34-8-156, relating to the State-wide Reserve Ratio, and inserting in lieu thereof a new
10 subparagraph (d)(4)(B) to read as follows:

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

16 If the State-wide Reserve Ratio:

17	Equals or	But Is	Overall
18	<u>Exceeds</u>	<u>Less Than</u>	<u>Increase</u>
19	1.5 percent	1.7 percent	25 percent
20	1.25 percent	1.5 percent	50 percent
21	0.75 percent	1.25 percent	75 percent
22	Under 0.75 percent		100 percent

1 provided, however, that for the period of January 1 through December 31, ~~2003~~ 2004,
2 the overall increase in the rate required under this subparagraph shall be suspended and
3 the provisions of this subparagraph shall be null and void."

4 **SECTION 2.**

5 Chapter 8 of Title 34 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to employment
6 security, is amended by striking Code Section 34-8-24, relating to the definition of bona
7 fide in the labor market, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

8 "34-8-24.

9 As used in this chapter, the term 'bona fide in the labor market' means that any person
10 claiming benefits under this chapter must be available for full-time or part-time
11 employment, as that term is generally understood in the trade or work classification
12 involved, without regard to prior work restrictions; provided in the case of availability for
13 part-time employment that there is a labor market in which a reasonable demand exists
14 for the part-time services which the claimant offers."

15 **SECTION 3.**

16 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming
17 law without such approval.

18 **SECTION 4.**

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