SB0107/147870/2

BY: Finance Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 107

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in the sponsor line, after "Administration" insert "and Senators Middleton, Della, Exum, Garagiola, and Kelley"; in line 2, strike "Labor and Employment -"; in the same line, before "Modernization" insert "Tax Deferment, Trust Fund Solvency, and Cost-Neutral"; in the same line, strike "and Tax"; in line 3, strike "Relief"; strike beginning with "reducing" in line 11 down through "circumstances;" in line 13 and substitute "altering the minimum amount of wages paid to a claimant for covered employment for the claimant to be eligible for benefits; decreasing the threshold for subtracting wages to determine an eligible claimant's weekly benefit amount; repealing a provision that prohibits the denial of certain benefits for failure to meet a certain requirement if the failure results from a certain illness or disability; altering the criteria used to determine when a disqualification for a finding of gross misconduct in connection with employment ends; altering the criteria used to determine when a disqualification for a finding of misconduct in connection with employment ends; requiring certain regulations to require the Secretary to offer certain payment plan options under certain circumstances; requiring the Secretary to offer certain payment plan options for certain calendar years; reducing the interest rate on certain late payments under certain circumstances; reducing the interest rate of certain late payments for certain calendar years; clarifying that certain money received during a certain period under the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act shall be included among certain total funds available for benefits; requiring the Joint Committee on Unemployment Insurance Oversight to study certain changes that would provide a certain cost-neutral plan to effectuate a certain increase in the maximum weekly benefit amount; requiring the study to include a certain determination of the impact of lowering the amount of wages that may be subtracted in the calculation of the weekly benefit amount; requiring the Joint

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Committee to report on or before a certain date;"; in line 19, after "8-101(a)" insert ", 8-607(a) through (c),"; and in line 24, strike "8-611(e), 8-612(d)(6), 8-628, and 8-903(a)" and substitute "8-607(d), 8-611(e), 8-628, 8-903(a), 8-907, 8-1002, and 8-1003".

On page 1, after line 26, insert:

"BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

<u>Article – Labor and Employment</u>

Section 8-803(a) and (c)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2008 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

(As enacted by Chapters 287 and 288 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2009)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

<u>Article – Labor and Employment</u>

<u>Section 8-803(b) and (d)</u>

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2008 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

(As enacted by Chapters 287 and 288 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2009)".

On page 2, in line 11, strike "25" and substitute "28"; in line 31, strike "reducing and"; in line 32, after "obligations" insert "and by returning rates to lower levels more quickly by securing \$126.8 million for the Fund without imposing any short-or long-term costs on employers"; and strike beginning with "Reducing" in line 33 down through "benefits" in line 36 and substitute "Securing the \$126.8 million will also benefit workers as employers feel less pressure to lay off more employees as the State works to climb out of the recession, and the cost-neutral modernization measures will make more workers eligible for benefits without putting additional pressure on the Fund or imposing any costs on employers".

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On pages 3 through 5, strike the lines beginning with line 24 on page 3 through line 12 on page 5, inclusive.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 9, after line 2, insert:

"SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

<u>Article - Labor and Employment</u>

8-803.

- (a) (1) To determine the weekly benefit amount to assign to a claimant in the schedule of benefits in subsection (b) of this section, the line in the schedule of benefits shall be located in which the high quarter wages in column (A) correspond to wages that the claimant was paid for covered employment in the calendar quarter of the claimant's base period in which those wages were highest.
 - (2) The claimant shall be assigned:
- (i) the weekly benefit amount in column (B) of the schedule for that line; or
- (ii) if the claimant is not eligible under § 8–802 of this subtitle for that weekly benefit amount but was paid wages to qualify in 1 of the next 6 lower lines of the schedule, the weekly benefit amount in the next lower line in column (B) of the schedule.

(b)

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SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS

		Weekly	<u>Minimum</u>
		<u>Benefit</u>	Qualifying
<u>Line</u>	High Quarter Wages	<u>Amount</u>	$\underline{\text{Wages}}$
	<u>(A)</u>	<u>(B)</u>	<u>(C)</u>
<u>[(1)</u>	\$ 576.01 to \$ 600.00	<u>25.00</u>	900.00
<u>(2)</u>	\$ 600.01 to \$ 624.00	<u>26.00</u>	936.00
<u>(3)</u>	\$ 624.01 to \$ 648.00	<u>27.00</u>	972.00
<u>(4)</u>	\$ 648.01 to \$ 672.00	<u>28.00</u>	1,008.00
<u>(5)</u>	\$ 672.01 to \$ 696.00	<u>29.00</u>	1,044.00
<u>(6)</u>	\$ 696.01 to \$ 720.00	<u>30.00</u>	<u>1,080.00</u>
<u>(7)</u>	\$ 720.01 to \$ 744.00	<u>31.00</u>	<u>1,116.00</u>
<u>(8)</u>	\$ 744.01 to \$ 768.00	<u>32.00</u>	1,152.00
<u>(9)</u>	\$ 768.01 to \$ 792.00	<u>33.00</u>	<u>1,188.00</u>
<u>(10)</u>	\$ 792.01 to \$ 816.00	<u>34.00</u>	1,224.00
<u>(11)</u>	\$ 816.01 to \$ 840.00	<u>35.00</u>	1,260.00
<u>(12)</u>	\$ 840.01 to \$ 864.00	<u>36.00</u>	1,296.00
<u>(13)</u>	\$ 864.01 to \$ 888.00	<u>37.00</u>	1,332.00
<u>(14)</u>	\$ 888.01 to \$ 912.00	<u>38.00</u>	1,368.00
<u>(15)</u>	\$ 912.01 to \$ 936.00	<u>39.00</u>	1,404.00
<u>(16)</u>	\$ 936.01 to \$ 960.00	40.00	1,440.00
<u>(17)</u>	\$ 960.01 to \$ 984.00	<u>41.00</u>	1,476.00
<u>(18)</u>	\$ 984.01 to \$1,008.00	<u>42.00</u>	1,512.00
<u>(19)</u>	\$1,008.01 to \$1,032.00	<u>43.00</u>	1,548.00
<u>(20)</u>	\$1,032.01 to \$1,056.00	44.00	1,584.00
<u>(21)</u>	\$1,056.01 to \$1,080.00	45.00	1,620.00
<u>(22)</u>	\$1,080.01 to \$1,104.00	46.00	1,656.00
<u>(23)</u>	\$1,104.01 to \$1,128.00	<u>47.00</u>	<u>1,692.00</u>

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<u>(24)</u>	\$1,128.01 to \$1,152.00	<u>48.00</u>	<u>1,728.00</u>
<u>(25)</u>	\$1,152.01 to \$1,176.00	<u>49.00</u>	<u>1,764.00</u>
(26)] (1)	\$1,176.01 to \$1,200.00	50.00	<u>1,800.00</u>
[(27)] (2)	\$1,200.01 to \$1,224.00	51.00	<u>1,836.00</u>
[(28)] (3)	\$1,224.01 to \$1,248.00	52.00	<u>1,872.00</u>
[(29)] (4)	\$1,248.01 to \$1,272.00	<u>53.00</u>	<u>1,908.00</u>
[(30)] (5)	\$1,272.01 to \$1,296.00	54.00	<u>1,944.00</u>
[(31)] (6)	\$1,296.01 to \$1,320.00	55.00	<u>1,980.00</u>
[(32)] (7)	\$1,320.01 to \$1,344.00	56.00	<u>2,016.00</u>
[(33)] (8)	\$1,344.01 to \$1,368.00	<u>57.00</u>	2,052.00
[(34)] (9)	\$1,368.01 to \$1,392.00	<u>58.00</u>	<u>2,088.00</u>
[(35)] (10)	\$1,392.01 to \$1,416.00	<u>59.00</u>	2,124.00
[(36)] (11)	\$1,416.01 to \$1,440.00	60.00	<u>2,160.00</u>
[(37)] (12)	\$1,440.01 to \$1,464.00	<u>61.00</u>	<u>2,196.00</u>
[(38)] (13)	\$1,464.01 to \$1,488.00	62.00	2,232.00
[(39)] (14)	\$1,488.01 to \$1,512.00	<u>63.00</u>	<u>2,268.00</u>
[(40)] (15)	\$1,512.01 to \$1,536.00	64.00	2,304.00
[(41)] (16)	\$1,536.01 to \$1,560.00	65.00	<u>2,340.00</u>
[(42)] (17)	\$1,560.01 to \$1,584.00	<u>66.00</u>	<u>2,376.00</u>
[(43)] (18)	\$1,584.01 to \$1,608.00	<u>67.00</u>	<u>2,412.00</u>
[(44)] (19)	\$1,608.01 to \$1,632.00	<u>68.00</u>	<u>2,448.00</u>
[(45)] (20)	\$1,632.01 to \$1,656.00	<u>69.00</u>	2,484.00
[(46)] (21)	\$1,656.01 to \$1,680.00	<u>70.00</u>	<u>2,520.00</u>
[(47)] (22)	\$1,680.01 to \$1,704.00	<u>71.00</u>	2,556.00
[(48)] (23)	\$1,704.01 to \$1,728.00	72.00	<u>2,592.00</u>
[(49)] (24)	\$1,728.01 to \$1,752.00	<u>73.00</u>	<u>2,628.00</u>
[(50)] (25)	\$1,752.01 to \$1,776.00	74.00	<u>2,664.00</u>
[(51)] (26)	\$1,776.01 to \$1,800.00	75.00	<u>2,700.00</u>
[(52)] (27)	\$1,800.01 to \$1,824.00	<u>76.00</u>	2,736.00
[(53)] (28)	\$1,824.01 to \$1,848.00	<u>77.00</u>	2,772.00

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[(54)] (29)	\$1,848.01 to \$1,872.00	<u>78.00</u>	<u>2,808.00</u>
[(55)] (30)	\$1,872.01 to \$1,896.00	<u>79.00</u>	<u>2,844.00</u>
[(56)] (31)	\$1,896.01 to \$1,920.00	80.00	<u>2,880.00</u>
[(57)] (32)	\$1,920.01 to \$1,944.00	<u>81.00</u>	<u>2,916.00</u>
[(58)] (33)	\$1,944.01 to \$1,968.00	82.00	2,952.00
[(59)] (34)	\$1,968.01 to \$1,992.00	83.00	<u>2,988.00</u>
[(60)] (35)	\$1,992.01 to \$2,016.00	84.00	<u>3,024.00</u>
[(61)] (36)	\$2,016.01 to \$2,040.00	85.00	3,060.00
[(62)] (37)	\$2,040.01 to \$2,064.00	86.00	3,096.00
[(63)] (38)	\$2,064.01 to \$2,088.00	<u>87.00</u>	<u>3,132.00</u>
[(64)] (39)	\$2,088.01 to \$2,112.00	<u>88.00</u>	<u>3,168.00</u>
[(65)] (40)	\$2,112.01 to \$2,136.00	<u>89.00</u>	<u>3,204.00</u>
[(66)] (41)	\$2,136.01 to \$2,160.00	90.00	<u>3,240.00</u>
[(67)] (42)	\$2,160.01 to \$2,184.00	91.00	<u>3,276.00</u>
[(68)] (43)	\$2,184.01 to \$2,208.00	92.00	<u>3,312.00</u>
[(69)] (44)	\$2,208.01 to \$2,232.00	93.00	<u>3,348.00</u>
[(70)] (45)	\$2,232.01 to \$2,256.00	94.00	<u>3,384.00</u>
[(71)] (46)	\$2,256.01 to \$2,280.00	<u>95.00</u>	<u>3,420.00</u>
[(72)] (47)	\$2,280.01 to \$2,304.00	96.00	<u>3,456.00</u>
[(73)] (48)	\$2,304.01 to \$2,328.00	<u>97.00</u>	<u>3,492.00</u>
[(74)] (49)	\$2,328.01 to \$2,352.00	<u>98.00</u>	<u>3,528.00</u>
[(75)] (50)	\$2,352.01 to \$2,376.00	<u>99.00</u>	<u>3,564.00</u>
[(76)] (51)	\$2,376.01 to \$2,400.00	100.00	<u>3,600.00</u>
[(77)] (52)	\$2,400.01 to \$2,424.00	<u>101.00</u>	<u>3,636.00</u>
[(78)] (53)	\$2,424.01 to \$2,448.00	102.00	<u>3,672.00</u>
[(79)] (54)	\$2,448.01 to \$2,472.00	<u>103.00</u>	<u>3,708.00</u>
[(80)] (55)	\$2,472.01 to \$2,496.00	104.00	<u>3,744.00</u>
[(81)] (56)	\$2,496.01 to \$2,520.00	<u>105.00</u>	<u>3,780.00</u>
[(82)] (57)	\$2,520.01 to \$2,544.00	<u>106.00</u>	3,816.00
[(83)] (58)	\$2,544.01 to \$2,568.00	<u>107.00</u>	3,852.00

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[(84)] (59)	\$2,568.01 to \$2,592.00	<u>108.00</u>	<u>3,888.00</u>
[(85)] (60)	\$2,592.01 to \$2,616.00	<u>109.00</u>	3,924.00
[(86)] (61)	\$2,616.01 to \$2,640.00	<u>110.00</u>	<u>3,960.00</u>
[(87)] (62)	\$2,640.01 to \$2,664.00	<u>111.00</u>	3,996.00
[(88)] (63)	\$2,664.01 to \$2,688.00	<u>112.00</u>	4,032.00
[(89)] (64)	\$2,688.01 to \$2,712.00	<u>113.00</u>	4,068.00
[(90)] (65)	\$2,712.01 to \$2,736.00	<u>114.00</u>	4,104.00
[(91)] (66)	\$2,736.01 to \$2,760.00	<u>115.00</u>	4,140.00
[(92)] (67)	\$2,760.01 to \$2,784.00	<u>116.00</u>	4,176.00
[(93)] (68)	\$2,784.01 to \$2,808.00	<u>117.00</u>	4,212.00
[(94)] (69)	\$2,808.01 to \$2,832.00	<u>118.00</u>	4,248.00
[(95)] (70)	\$2,832.01 to \$2,856.00	<u>119.00</u>	4,284.00
[(96)] (71)	\$2,856.01 to \$2,880.00	<u>120.00</u>	4,320.00
[(97)] (72)	\$2,880.01 to \$2,904.00	<u>121.00</u>	4,356.00
[(98)] (73)	\$2,904.01 to \$2,928.00	<u>122.00</u>	4,392.00
[(99)] (74)	\$2,928.01 to \$2,952.00	<u>123.00</u>	4,428.00
[(100)] (75)	\$2,952.01 to \$2,976.00	<u>124.00</u>	4,464.00
[(101)] (76)	\$2,976.01 to \$3,000.00	125.00	<u>4,500.00</u>
[(102)] (77)	\$3,000.01 to \$3,024.00	<u>126.00</u>	<u>4,536.00</u>
[(103)] (78)	\$3,024.01 to \$3,048.00	<u>127.00</u>	4,572.00
[(104)] (79)	\$3,048.01 to \$3,072.00	<u>128.00</u>	<u>4,608.00</u>
[(105)] (80)	\$3,072.01 to \$3,096.00	<u>129.00</u>	4,644.00
[(106)] (81)	\$3,096.01 to \$3,120.00	<u>130.00</u>	<u>4,680.00</u>
[(107)] (82)	\$3,120.01 to \$3,144.00	<u>131.00</u>	4,716.00
[(108)] (83)	\$3,144.01 to \$3,168.00	<u>132.00</u>	4,752.00
[(109)] (84)	\$3,168.01 to \$3,192.00	<u>133.00</u>	4,788.00
[(110)] (85)	\$3,192.01 to \$3,216.00	<u>134.00</u>	4,824.00
[(111)] (86)	\$3,216.01 to \$3,240.00	<u>135.00</u>	4,860.00
[(112)] (87)	\$3,240.01 to \$3,264.00	<u>136.00</u>	4,896.00
[(113)] (88)	\$3,264.01 to \$3,288.00	<u>137.00</u>	4,932.00

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[(114)] (89)	\$3,288.01 to \$3,312.00	<u>138.00</u>	4,968.00
[(115)] (90)	\$3,312.01 to \$3,336.00	<u>139.00</u>	5,004.00
[(116)] (91)	\$3,336.01 to \$3,360.00	<u>140.00</u>	5,040.00
[(117)] (92)	\$3,360.01 to \$3,384.00	<u>141.00</u>	5,076.00
[(118)] (93)	\$3,384.01 to \$3,408.00	142.00	5,112.00
[(119)] (94)	\$3,408.01 to \$3,432.00	<u>143.00</u>	5,148.00
[(120)] (95)	\$3,432.01 to \$3,456.00	144.00	5,184.00
[(121)] (96)	\$3,456.01 to \$3,480.00	145.00	5,220.00
[(122)] (97)	\$3,480.01 to \$3,504.00	<u>146.00</u>	5,256.00
[(123)] (98)	\$3,504.01 to \$3,528.00	<u>147.00</u>	5,292.00
[(124)] (99)	\$3,528.01 to \$3,552.00	<u>148.00</u>	5,328.00
[(125)] (100)	\$3,552.01 to \$3,576.00	<u>149.00</u>	<u>5,364.00</u>
[(126)] (101)	\$3,576.01 to \$3,600.00	<u>150.00</u>	<u>5,400.00</u>
[(127)] (102)	\$3,600.01 to \$3,624.00	<u>151.00</u>	<u>5,436.00</u>
[(128)] (103)	\$3,624.01 to \$3,648.00	152.00	5,472.00
[(129)] (104)	\$3,648.01 to \$3,672.00	<u>153.00</u>	<u>5,508.00</u>
[(130)] (105)	\$3,672.01 to \$3,696.00	154.00	<u>5,544.00</u>
[(131)] (106)	\$3,696.01 to \$3,720.00	155.00	<u>5,580.00</u>
[(132)] (107)	\$3,720.01 to \$3,744.00	156.00	<u>5,616.00</u>
[(133)] (108)	\$3,744.01 to \$3,768.00	157.00	5,652.00
[(134)] (109)	\$3,768.01 to \$3,792.00	158.00	<u>5,688.00</u>
[(135)] (110)	\$3,792.01 to \$3,816.00	<u>159.00</u>	5,724.00
[(136)] (111)	\$3,816.01 to \$3,840.00	<u>160.00</u>	5,760.00
[(137)] (112)	\$3,840.01 to \$3,864.00	<u>161.00</u>	5,796.00
[(138)] (113)	\$3,864.01 to \$3,888.00	<u>162.00</u>	<u>5,832.00</u>
[(139)] (114)	\$3,888.01 to \$3,912.00	<u>163.00</u>	<u>5,868.00</u>
<u>[(140)]</u> (115)	\$3,912.01 to \$3,936.00	<u>164.00</u>	<u>5,904.00</u>
[(141)] (116)	\$3,936.01 to \$3,960.00	165.00	<u>5,940.00</u>
[(142)] (117)	\$3,960.01 to \$3,984.00	<u>166.00</u>	<u>5,976.00</u>
<u>[(143)]</u> (118)	\$3,984.01 to \$4,008.00	<u>167.00</u>	<u>6,012.00</u>

[(144)] (119)	\$4,008.01 to \$4,032.00	<u>168.00</u>	6,048.00
[(145)] (120)	\$4,032.01 to \$4,056.00	<u>169.00</u>	6,084.00
[(146)] (121)	\$4,056.01 to \$4,080.00	<u>170.00</u>	6,120.00
[(147)] (122)	\$4,080.01 to \$4,104.00	<u>171.00</u>	6,156.00
[(148)] (123)	\$4,104.01 to \$4,128.00	<u>172.00</u>	6,192.00
[(149)] (124)	\$4,128.01 to \$4,152.00	<u>173.00</u>	6,228.00
[(150)] (125)	\$4,152.01 to \$4,176.00	<u>174.00</u>	6,264.00
[(151)] (126)	\$4,176.01 to \$4,200.00	<u>175.00</u>	6,300.00
[(152)] (127)	\$4,200.01 to \$4,224.00	<u>176.00</u>	6,336.00
[(153)] (128)	\$4,224.01 to \$4,248.00	<u>177.00</u>	6,372.00
[(154)] (129)	\$4,248.01 to \$4,272.00	<u>178.00</u>	6,408.00
[(155)] (130)	\$4,272.01 to \$4,296.00	<u>179.00</u>	6,444.00
[(156)] (131)	\$4,296.01 to \$4,320.00	<u>180.00</u>	6,480.00
[(157)] (132)	\$4,320.01 to \$4,344.00	<u>181.00</u>	6,516.00
[(158)] (133)	\$4,344.01 to \$4,368.00	<u>182.00</u>	6,552.00
[(159)] (134)	\$4,368.01 to \$4,392.00	<u>183.00</u>	6,588.00
[(160)] (135)	\$4,392.01 to \$4,416.00	<u>184.00</u>	6,624.00
[(161)] (136)	\$4,416.01 to \$4,440.00	<u>185.00</u>	<u>6,660.00</u>
[(162)] (137)	\$4,440.01 to \$4,464.00	<u>186.00</u>	6,696.00
[(163)] (138)	\$4,464.01 to \$4,488.00	<u>187.00</u>	6,732.00
[(164)] (139)	\$4,488.01 to \$4,512.00	<u>188.00</u>	6,768.00
[(165)] (140)	\$4,512.01 to \$4,536.00	<u>189.00</u>	6,804.00
[(166)] (141)	\$4,536.01 to \$4,560.00	<u>190.00</u>	6,840.00
[(167)] (142)	\$4,560.01 to \$4,584.00	<u>191.00</u>	6,876.00
[(168)] (143)	\$4,584.01 to \$4,608.00	<u>192.00</u>	6,912.00
[(169)] (144)	\$4,608.01 to \$4,632.00	<u>193.00</u>	6,948.00
[(170)] (145)	\$4,632.01 to \$4,656.00	<u>194.00</u>	6,984.00
[(171)] (146)	\$4,656.01 to \$4,680.00	<u>195.00</u>	7,020.00
[(172)] (147)	\$4,680.01 to \$4,704.00	<u>196.00</u>	7,056.00
[(173)] (148)	\$4,704.01 to \$4,728.00	<u>197.00</u>	7,092.00

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[(174)] (149)	\$4,728.01 to \$4,752.00	<u>198.00</u>	7,128.00
[(175)] (150)	\$4,752.01 to \$4,776.00	<u>199.00</u>	7,164.00
[(176)] (151)	\$4,776.01 to \$4,800.00	<u>200.00</u>	<u>7,200.00</u>
[(177)] (152)	\$4,800.01 to \$4,824.00	<u>201.00</u>	7,236.00
[(178)] (153)	\$4,824.01 to \$4,848.00	<u>202.00</u>	7,272.00
[(179)] (154)	\$4,848.01 to \$4,872.00	<u>203.00</u>	<u>7,308.00</u>
[(180)] (155)	\$4,872.01 to \$4,896.00	<u>204.00</u>	7,344.00
[(181)] (156)	\$4,896.01 to \$4,920.00	205.00	<u>7,380.00</u>
[(182)] (157)	\$4,920.01 to \$4,944.00	<u>206.00</u>	<u>7,416.00</u>
[(183)] (158)	\$4,944.01 to \$4,968.00	<u>207.00</u>	7,452.00
[(184)] (159)	\$4,968.01 to \$4,992.00	<u>208.00</u>	<u>7,488.00</u>
[(185)] (160)	\$4,992.01 to \$5,016.00	<u>209.00</u>	7,524.00
[(186)] (161)	\$5,016.01 to \$5,040.00	210.00	7,560.00
[(187)] (162)	\$5,040.01 to \$5,064.00	<u>211.00</u>	7,596.00
[(188)] (163)	\$5,064.01 to \$5,088.00	212.00	7,632.00
[(189)] (164)	\$5,088.01 to \$5,112.00	<u>213.00</u>	7,668.00
[(190)] (165)	\$5,112.01 to \$5,136.00	214.00	7,704.00
[(191)] (166)	\$5,136.01 to \$5,160.00	215.00	7,740.00
[(192)] (167)	\$5,160.01 to \$5,184.00	<u>216.00</u>	7,776.00
[(193)] (168)	\$5,184.01 to \$5,208.00	217.00	<u>7,812.00</u>
[(194)] (169)	\$5,208.01 to \$5,232.00	<u>218.00</u>	7,848.00
[(195)] (170)	\$5,232.01 to \$5,256.00	<u>219.00</u>	<u>7,884.00</u>
[(196)] (171)	\$5,256.01 to \$5,280.00	<u>220.00</u>	7,920.00
[(197)] (172)	\$5,280.01 to \$5,304.00	<u>221.00</u>	7,956.00
[(198)] (173)	\$5,304.01 to \$5,328.00	222.00	7,992.00
[(199)] (174)	\$5,328.01 to \$5,352.00	223.00	8,028.00
[(200)] (175)	\$5,352.01 to \$5,376.00	224.00	8,064.00
[(201)] (176)	\$5,376.01 to \$5,400.00	225.00	8,100.00
[(202)] (177)	\$5,400.01 to \$5,424.00	226.00	8,136.00
[(203)] (178)	\$5,424.01 to \$5,448.00	227.00	<u>8,172.00</u>

[(204)] (179)	\$5,448.01 to \$5,472.00	228.00	<u>8,208.00</u>
[(205)] (180)	\$5,472.01 to \$5,496.00	229.00	8,244.00
[(206)] (181)	\$5,496.01 to \$5,520.00	230.00	<u>8,280.00</u>
[(207)] (182)	\$5,520.01 to \$5,544.00	<u>231.00</u>	<u>8,316.00</u>
[(208)] (183)	\$5,544.01 to \$5,568.00	232.00	8,352.00
[(209)] (184)	\$5,568.01 to \$5,592.00	233.00	<u>8,388.00</u>
[(210)] (185)	\$5,592.01 to \$5,616.00	<u>234.00</u>	8,424.00
[(211)] (186)	\$5,616.01 to \$5,640.00	235.00	<u>8,460.00</u>
[(212)] (187)	\$5,640.01 to \$5,664.00	<u>236.00</u>	8,496.00
[(213)] (188)	\$5,664.01 to \$5,688.00	<u>237.00</u>	8,532.00
[(214)] (189)	\$5,688.01 to \$5,712.00	<u>238.00</u>	<u>8,568.00</u>
[(215)] (190)	\$5,712.01 to \$5,736.00	<u>239.00</u>	8,604.00
[(216)] (191)	\$5,736.01 to \$5,760.00	<u>240.00</u>	8,640.00
[(217)] (192)	\$5,760.01 to \$5,784.00	<u>241.00</u>	8,676.00
[(218)] (193)	\$5,784.01 to \$5,808.00	242.00	8,712.00
[(219)] (194)	\$5,808.01 to \$5,832.00	<u>243.00</u>	8,748.00
[(220)] (195)	\$5,832.01 to \$5,856.00	244.00	8,784.00
[(221)] (196)	\$5,856.01 to \$5,880.00	245.00	8,820.00
[(222)] (197)	\$5,880.01 to \$5,904.00	<u>246.00</u>	8,856.00
[(223)] (198)	\$5,904.01 to \$5,928.00	247.00	8,892.00
[(224)] (199)	\$5,928.01 to \$5,952.00	<u>248.00</u>	8,928.00
[(225)] (200)	\$5,952.01 to \$5,976.00	<u>249.00</u>	8,964.00
[(226)] (201)	\$5,976.01 to \$6,000.00	250.00	9,000.00
[(227)] (202)	\$6,000.01 to \$6,024.00	251.00	9,036.00
[(228)] (203)	\$6,024.01 to \$6,048.00	252.00	9,072.00
[(229)] (204)	\$6,048.01 to \$6,072.00	253.00	9,108.00
[(230)] (205)	\$6,072.01 to \$6,096.00	254.00	9,144.00
[(231)] (206)	\$6,096.01 to \$6,120.00	255.00	9,180.00
[(232)] (207)	\$6,120.01 to \$6,144.00	256.00	9,216.00
[(233)] (208)	\$6,144.01 to \$6,168.00	257.00	9,252.00

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[(234)] (209)	\$6,168.01 to \$6,192.00	258.00	9,288.00
[(235)] (210)	\$6,192.01 to \$6,216.00	259.00	9,324.00
[(236)] (211)	\$6,216.01 to \$6,240.00	<u>260.00</u>	9,360.00
[(237)] (212)	\$6,240.01 to \$6,264.00	<u>261.00</u>	9,396.00
[(238)] (213)	\$6,264.01 to \$6,288.00	<u>262.00</u>	9,432.00
[(239)] (214)	\$6,288.01 to \$6,312.00	<u>263.00</u>	9,468.00
[(240)] (215)	\$6,312.01 to \$6,336.00	<u>264.00</u>	9,504.00
[(241)] (216)	\$6,336.01 to \$6,360.00	265.00	9,540.00
[(242)] (217)	\$6,360.01 to \$6,384.00	<u>266.00</u>	9,576.00
[(243)] (218)	\$6,384.01 to \$6,408.00	267.00	9,612.00
[(244)] (219)	\$6,408.01 to \$6,432.00	<u>268.00</u>	9,648.00
[(245)] (220)	\$6,432.01 to \$6,456.00	<u>269.00</u>	9,684.00
[(246)] (221)	\$6,456.01 to \$6,480.00	270.00	9,720.00
[(247)] (222)	\$6,480.01 to \$6,504.00	271.00	9,756.00
[(248)] (223)	\$6,504.01 to \$6,528.00	272.00	9,792.00
[(249)] (224)	\$6,528.01 to \$6,552.00	273.00	9,828.00
[(250)] (225)	\$6,552.01 to \$6,576.00	274.00	9,864.00
[(251)] (226)	\$6,576.01 to \$6,600.00	275.00	9,900.00
[(252)] (227)	\$6,600.01 to \$6,624.00	276.00	9,936.00
[(253)] (228)	\$6,624.01 to \$6,648.00	277.00	9,972.00
[(254)] (229)	\$6,648.01 to \$6,672.00	278.00	10,008.00
[(255)] (230)	\$6,672.01 to \$6,696.00	279.00	10,044.00
[(256)] (231)	\$6,696.01 to \$6,720.00	280.00	10,080.00
[(257)] (232)	\$6,720.01 to \$6,744.00	<u>281.00</u>	10,116.00
[(258)] (233)	\$6,744.01 to \$6,768.00	282.00	10,152.00
[(259)] (234)	\$6,768.01 to \$6,792.00	<u>283.00</u>	10,188.00
[(260)] (235)	\$6,792.01 to \$6,816.00	284.00	10,224.00
[(261)] (236)	\$6,816.01 to \$6,840.00	285.00	10,260.00
[(262)] (237)	\$6,840.01 to \$6,864.00	286.00	10,296.00
[(263)] (238)	\$6,864.01 to \$6,888.00	287.00	10,332.00

[(264)] (239)	\$6,888.01 to \$6,912.00	<u>288.00</u>	<u>10,368.00</u>
[(265)] (240)	\$6,912.01 to \$6,936.00	<u>289.00</u>	10,404.00
[(266)] (241)	\$6,936.01 to \$6,960.00	<u>290.00</u>	10,440.00
[(267)] (242)	\$6,960.01 to \$6,984.00	<u>291.00</u>	10,476.00
[(268)] (243)	\$6,984.01 to \$7,008.00	<u>292.00</u>	10,512.00
[(269)] (244)	\$7,008.01 to \$7,032.00	<u>293.00</u>	10,548.00
[(270)] (245)	\$7,032.01 to \$7,056.00	294.00	10,584.00
[(271)] (246)	\$7,056.01 to \$7,080.00	295.00	10,620.00
[(272)] (247)	\$7,080.01 to \$7,104.00	<u>296.00</u>	10,656.00
[(273)] (248)	\$7,104.01 to \$7,128.00	<u>297.00</u>	10,692.00
[(274)] (249)	\$7,128.01 to \$7,152.00	<u>298.00</u>	10,728.00
[(275)] (250)	\$7,152.01 to \$7,176.00	<u>299.00</u>	10,764.00
[(276)] (251)	\$7,176.01 to \$7,200.00	<u>300.00</u>	10,800.00
[(277)] (252)	\$7,200.01 to \$7,224.00	<u>301.00</u>	10,836.00
[(278)] (253)	\$7,224.01 to \$7,248.00	<u>302.00</u>	10,872.00
[(279)] (254)	\$7,248.01 to \$7,272.00	<u>303.00</u>	10,908.00
[(280)] (255)	\$7,272.01 to \$7,296.00	304.00	10,944.00
[(281)] (256)	\$7,296.01 to \$7,320.00	<u>305.00</u>	10,980.00
[(282)] (257)	\$7,320.01 to \$7,344.00	<u>306.00</u>	11,016.00
[(283)] (258)	\$7,344.01 to \$7,368.00	<u>307.00</u>	11,052.00
[(284)] (259)	\$7,368.01 to \$7,392.00	<u>308.00</u>	11,088.00
[(285)] (260)	\$7,392.01 to \$7,416.00	309.00	11,124.00
[(286)] (261)	\$7,416.01 to \$7,440.00	310.00	11,160.00
[(287)] (262)	\$7,440.01 to \$7,464.00	<u>311.00</u>	11,196.00
[(288)] (263)	\$7,464.01 to \$7,488.00	<u>312.00</u>	11,232.00
[(289)] (264)	\$7,488.01 to \$7,512.00	<u>313.00</u>	11,268.00
[(290)] (265)	\$7,512.01 to \$7,536.00	<u>314.00</u>	11,304.00
[(291)] (266)	\$7,536.01 to \$7,560.00	<u>315.00</u>	11,340.00
[(292)] (267)	\$7,560.01 to \$7,584.00	<u>316.00</u>	11,376.00
[(293)] (268)	\$7,584.01 to \$7,608.00	<u>317.00</u>	11,412.00

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[(294)] (269)	\$7,608.01 to \$7,632.00	<u>318.00</u>	11,448.00
[(295)] (270)	\$7,632.01 to \$7,656.00	319.00	11,484.00
[(296)] (271)	\$7,656.01 to \$7,680.00	<u>320.00</u>	11,520.00
[(297)] (272)	\$7,680.01 to \$7,704.00	<u>321.00</u>	11,556.00
[(298)] (273)	\$7,704.01 to \$7,728.00	322.00	11,592.00
[(299)] (274)	\$7,728.01 to \$7,752.00	323.00	11,628.00
[(300)] (275)	\$7,752.01 to \$7,776.00	324.00	11,664.00
[(301)] (276)	\$7,776.01 to \$7,800.00	325.00	11,700.00
[(302)] (277)	\$7,800.01 to \$7,824.00	326.00	11,736.00
[(303)] (278)	\$7,824.01 to \$7,848.00	<u>327.00</u>	11,772.00
[(304)] (279)	\$7,848.01 to \$7,872.00	328.00	11,808.00
[(305)] (280)	\$7,872.01 to \$7,896.00	329.00	11,844.00
[(306)] (281)	\$7,896.01 to \$7,920.00	330.00	11,880.00
[(307)] (282)	\$7,920.01 to \$7,944.00	<u>331.00</u>	11,916.00
[(308)] (283)	\$7,944.01 to \$7,968.00	<u>332.00</u>	11,952.00
[(309)] (284)	\$7,968.01 to \$7,992.00	333.00	<u>11,988.00</u>
[(310)] (285)	\$7,992.01 to \$8,016.00	<u>334.00</u>	12,024.00
[(311)] (286)	\$8,016.01 to \$8,040.00	335.00	12,060.00
[(312)] (287)	\$8,040.01 to \$8,064.00	<u>336.00</u>	12,096.00
[(313)] (288)	\$8,064.01 to \$8,088.00	<u>337.00</u>	12,132.00
[(314)] (289)	\$8,088.01 to \$8,112.00	<u>338.00</u>	12,168.00
[(315)] (290)	\$8,112.01 to \$8,136.00	<u>339.00</u>	12,204.00
[(316)] (291)	\$8,136.01 to \$8,160.00	<u>340.00</u>	12,240.00
[(317)] (292)	\$8,160.01 to \$8,184.00	<u>341.00</u>	$12,\!276.00$
[(318)] (293)	\$8,184.01 to \$8,208.00	<u>342.00</u>	12,312.00
[(319)] (294)	\$8,208.01 to \$8,232.00	<u>343.00</u>	12,348.00
[(320)] (295)	\$8,232.01 to \$8,256.00	<u>344.00</u>	12,384.00
[(321)] (296)	\$8,256.01 to \$8,280.00	345.00	12,420.00
[(322)] (297)	\$8,280.01 to \$8,304.00	346.00	12,456.00
[(323)] (298)	\$8,304.01 to \$8,328.00	<u>347.00</u>	12,492.00

[(324)] (299)	\$8,328.01 to \$8,352.00	348.00	12,528.00
[(325)] (300)	\$8,352.01 to \$8,376.00	<u>349.00</u>	12,564.00
[(326)] (301)	\$8,376.01 to \$8,400.00	350.00	12,600.00
[(327)] (302)	\$8,400.01 to \$8,424.00	<u>351.00</u>	12,636.00
[(328)] (303)	\$8,424.01 to \$8,448.00	352.00	12,672.00
[(329)] (304)	\$8,448.01 to \$8,472.00	<u>353.00</u>	12,708.00
[(330)] (305)	\$8,472.01 to \$8,496.00	<u>354.00</u>	12,744.00
[(331)] (306)	\$8,496.01 to \$8,520.00	<u>355.00</u>	12,780.00
[(332)] (307)	\$8,520.01 to \$8,544.00	<u>356.00</u>	<u>12,816.00</u>
[(333)] (308)	\$8,544.01 to \$8,568.00	<u>357.00</u>	12,852.00
[(334)] (309)	\$8,568.01 to \$8,592.00	<u>358.00</u>	12,888.00
[(335)] (310)	\$8,592.01 to \$8,616.00	<u>359.00</u>	12,924.00
[(336)] (311)	\$8,616.01 to \$8,640.00	<u>360.00</u>	<u>12,960.00</u>
[(337)] (312)	\$8,640.01 to \$8,664.00	<u>361.00</u>	12,996.00
[(338)] (313)	\$8,664.01 to \$8,688.00	<u>362.00</u>	13,032.00
[(339)] (314)	\$8,688.01 to \$8,712.00	<u>363.00</u>	13,068.00
[(340)] (315)	\$8,712.01 to \$8,736.00	<u>364.00</u>	<u>13,104.00</u>
<u>[(341)]</u> (316)	\$8,736.01 to \$8,760.00	365.00	<u>13,140.00</u>
[(342)] (317)	\$8,760.01 to \$8,784.00	<u>366.00</u>	<u>13,176.00</u>
[(343)] (318)	\$8,784.01 to \$8,808.00	<u>367.00</u>	<u>13,212.00</u>
[(344)] (319)	\$8,808.01 to \$8,832.00	<u>368.00</u>	13,248.00
[(345)] (320)	\$8,832.01 to \$8,856.00	<u>369.00</u>	13,284.00
[(346)] (321)	\$8,856.01 to \$8,880.00	<u>370.00</u>	13,320.00
[(347)] (322)	\$8,880.01 to \$8,904.00	<u>371.00</u>	<u>13,356.00</u>
[(348)] (323)	\$8,904.01 to \$8,928.00	<u>372.00</u>	13,392.00
[(349)] (324)	\$8,928.01 to \$8,952.00	<u>373.00</u>	13,428.00
[(350)] (325)	\$8,952.01 to \$8,976.00	374.00	13,464.00
[(351)] (326)	\$8,976.01 to \$9,000.00	375.00	13,500.00
[(352)] (327)	\$9,000.01 to \$9,024.00	<u>376.00</u>	<u>13,536.00</u>
[(353)] (328)	\$9,024.01 to \$9,048.00	<u>377.00</u>	<u>13,572.00</u>

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[(354)] (329)	\$9,048.01 to \$9,072.00	<u>378.00</u>	13,608.00
[(355)] (330)	\$9,072.01 to \$9,096.00	<u>379.00</u>	13,644.00
[(356)] (331)	\$9,096.01 to \$9,120.00	<u>380.00</u>	13,680.00
[(357)] (332)	\$9,120.01 to \$9,144.00	<u>381.00</u>	13,716.00
[(358)] (333)	\$9,144.01 to \$9,168.00	<u>382.00</u>	13,752.00
[(359)] (334)	\$9,168.01 to \$9,192.00	<u>383.00</u>	13,788.00
[(360)] (335)	\$9,192.01 to \$9,216.00	<u>384.00</u>	13,824.00
[(361)] (336)	\$9,216.01 to \$9,240.00	<u>385.00</u>	13,860.00
[(362)] (337)	\$9,240.01 to \$9,264.00	<u>386.00</u>	13,896.00
[(363)] (338)	\$9,264.01 to \$9,288.00	<u>387.00</u>	13,932.00
[(364)] (339)	\$9,288.01 to \$9,312.00	<u>388.00</u>	<u>13,968.00</u>
[(365)] (340)	\$9,312.01 to \$9,336.00	<u>389.00</u>	14,004.00
[(366)] (341)	\$9,336.01 to \$9,360.00	<u>390.00</u>	14,040.00
[(367)] (342)	\$9,360.01 to \$9,384.00	<u>391.00</u>	14,076.00
[(368)] (343)	\$9,384.01 to \$9,408.00	<u>392.00</u>	14,112.00
[(369)] (344)	\$9,408.01 to \$9,432.00	<u>393.00</u>	<u>14,148.00</u>
[(370)] (345)	\$9,432.01 to \$9,456.00	<u>394.00</u>	14,184.00
[(371)] (346)	\$9,456.01 to \$9,480.00	<u>395.00</u>	14,220.00
[(372)] (347)	\$9,480.01 to \$9,504.00	<u>396.00</u>	14,256.00
[(373)] (348)	\$9,504.01 to \$9,528.00	<u>397.00</u>	14,292.00
[(374)] (349)	\$9,528.01 to \$9,552.00	<u>398.00</u>	14,328.00
[(375)] (350)	\$9,552.01 to \$9,576.00	<u>399.00</u>	14,364.00
[(376)] (351)	\$9,576.01 to \$9,600.00	400.00	14,400.00
[(377)] (352)	\$9,600.01 to \$9,624.00	<u>401.00</u>	14,436.00
[(378)] (353)	\$9,624.01 to \$9,648.00	402.00	14,472.00
[(379)] (354)	\$9,648.01 to \$9,672.00	403.00	14,508.00
[(380)] (355)	\$9,672.01 to \$9,696.00	404.00	14,544.00
[(381)] (356)	\$9,696.01 to \$9,720.00	405.00	14,580.00
[(382)] (357)	\$9,720.01 to \$9,744.00	<u>406.00</u>	14,616.00
[(383)] (358)	\$9,744.01 to \$9,768.00	407.00	14,652.00

[(384)] (359)	\$9,768.01 to \$9,792.00	<u>408.00</u>	<u>14,688.00</u>
[(385)] (360)	\$9,792.01 to \$9,816.00	409.00	14,724.00
[(386)] (361)	\$9,816.01 to \$9,840.00	410.00	14,760.00
[(387)] (362)	\$9,840.01 to \$9,864.00	411.00	14,796.00
[(388)] (363)	\$9,864.01 to \$9,888.00	412.00	14,832.00
[(389)] (364)	\$9,888.01 to \$9,912.00	413.00	14,868.00
[(390)] (365)	\$9,912.01 to \$9,936.00	<u>414.00</u>	14,904.00
[(391)] (366)	\$9,936.01 to \$9,960.00	415.00	14,940.00
[(392)] (367)	\$9,960.01 to \$9,984.00	<u>416.00</u>	14,976.00
[(393)] (368)	\$9,984.01 to \$10,008.00	<u>417.00</u>	<u>15,012.00</u>
[(394)] (369)	\$10,008.01 to \$10,032.00	<u>418.00</u>	15,048.00
[(395)] (370)	\$10,032.01 to \$10,056.00	<u>419.00</u>	15,084.00
[(396)] (371)	\$10,056.01 to \$10,080.00	<u>420.00</u>	<u>15,120.00</u>
[(397)] (372)	\$10,080.01 to \$10,104.00	<u>421.00</u>	<u>15,156.00</u>
[(398)] (373)	\$10,104.01 to \$10,128.00	422.00	15,192.00
[(399)] (374)	\$10,128.01 to \$10,152.00	<u>423.00</u>	15,228.00
[(400)] (375)	\$10,152.01 to \$10,176.00	424.00	15,264.00
[(401)] (376)	\$10,176.01 to \$10,200.00	<u>425.00</u>	15,300.00
[(402)] (377)	\$10,200.01 to \$10,224.00	<u>426.00</u>	15,336.00
[(403)] (378)	\$10,224.01 to \$10,248.00	<u>427.00</u>	15,372.00
[(404)] (379)	\$10,248.01 to \$10,272.00	<u>428.00</u>	<u>15,408.00</u>
[(405)] (381)	\$10,272.01 to \$10,296.00	<u>429.00</u>	<u>15,444.00</u>
[(406)] (382)	\$10,296.01 and over	430.00	<u>15,480.00</u>

(c) The schedule of benefits that is in effect on the 1st day of a claimant's benefit year applies to the claimant throughout that benefit year.".

AMENDMENT NO. 4

On page 9, before line 3, insert:

"SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Labor and Employment

8-803.

- (d) (1) Except as provided in § 8–1207 of this title for the work sharing program and § 8–1604 of this title for the Self–Employment Assistance Program, an eligible claimant shall be paid a weekly benefit amount that is computed by:
- (i) determining the claimant's weekly benefit amount under this section;
- (ii) adding any allowance for a dependent to which the claimant is entitled under § 8–804 of this subtitle; and
- (iii) subtracting any wages exceeding [\$100] **\$50** payable to the claimant for the week.
- (2) <u>In computing benefits under this subsection, a fraction of a</u> dollar shall be rounded to the next lower dollar.

8-907.

(a) [An individual may not be denied benefits for any week of unemployment for failure to meet the requirements of § 8–903(a)(1) of this subtitle to be able to work, available for work, and actively seeking work if the failure results from illness or disability that occurs after the individual has registered for work, provided that no work that would have been considered suitable at the time of the initial registration is offered to the individual after the beginning of the illness or disability.

- (b) An individual may not be denied benefits for any week of unemployment for failure to meet the requirements of § 8–903(a)(1) of this subtitle to be able to work, be available to work, and actively seeking work if the failure results from a summons to appear for jury duty.
- [(c)](B) An individual may not be denied benefits for any week of unemployment for failure to meet the requirement of § 8–903(a)(1)(iii) of this subtitle to seek work actively if the individual:
 - (1) is at least 60 years old; and
 - (2) has been furloughed temporarily and is subject to recall.

8-1002.

- (a) <u>In this section, "gross misconduct":</u>
 - (1) means conduct of an employee that is:
- (i) <u>deliberate and willful disregard of standards of behavior</u> that an employing unit rightfully expects and that shows gross indifference to the interests of the employing unit; or
- (ii) repeated violations of employment rules that prove a regular and wanton disregard of the employee's obligations; and
 - (2) does not include:

- (ii) other misconduct, as defined under § 8–1003 of this subtitle.
- (b) An individual who otherwise is eligible to receive benefits is disqualified from receiving benefits if unemployment results from discharge or suspension as a disciplinary measure for behavior that the Secretary finds is gross misconduct in connection with employment.
 - (c) A disqualification under this section shall:
- (1) begin with the first week for which unemployment is caused by discharge or suspension for gross misconduct as determined under this section; and
- (2) continue until the individual is reemployed and has earned wages in covered employment that equal at least [20] 25 times the weekly benefit amount of the individual.

<u>8–1003.</u>

- (a) An individual who otherwise is eligible to receive benefits is disqualified from receiving benefits if the Secretary finds that unemployment results from discharge or suspension as a disciplinary measure for behavior that the Secretary finds is misconduct in connection with employment but that is not:
 - (1) aggravated misconduct, under § 8–1002.1 of this subtitle; or
 - (2) gross misconduct under § 8–1002 of this subtitle.
 - (b) A disqualification under this section shall:
- (1) begin with the first week for which unemployment is caused by discharge or suspension for misconduct; and

(2) continue for a total of at least [5] 10 but not more than [10] 15 weeks, as determined by the Secretary, based on the seriousness of the misconduct.

SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

<u>Article – Labor and Employment</u>

8-607.

- (a) Except as provided in Part III of this subtitle, an employing unit shall pay to the Secretary contributions for the Unemployment Insurance Fund on taxable wages for covered employment that is performed for the employing unit.
- (b) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the taxable wage base is the first \$8,500 in wages that:
- (i) an employing unit pays to each employee for covered employment during a calendar year;
- (ii) an employing unit pays to each employee for covered employment in this State and another state during a calendar year if the employee was continuously employed immediately before and after a transfer of a business from another state during a calendar year;
- (iii) a reorganized employer pays to each employee for covered employment if the employee was continuously employed immediately before and after the reorganization in a calendar year and if the contribution rate of the reorganized employer is based on the experience with payrolls and benefit charges of the employing unit before the reorganization in accordance with § 8–613(b) of this subtitle; or

- (iv) an employing unit or predecessor employer or combination of both pays to each employee for covered employment during a calendar year if the payrolls and benefit charges of the predecessor employing unit are transferred to the successor employing unit in accordance with § 8–613(d) or (e) of this subtitle.
- (2) If the Federal Unemployment Tax Act or any other federal tax law that allows a credit for a contribution to a state unemployment insurance fund increases the maximum amount of wages taxable under that law in a calendar year to more than \$8,500, the taxable wage base under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be the same as under the federal law.
- (c) (1) The Secretary shall determine the rate of contribution for each employing unit as of the computation date for the next calendar year.
 - (2) The rate of contribution is effective for 1 calendar year.
 - (d) (1) By regulation, the Secretary shall set:
 - [(i)]1. the date when contributions are due; and
 - [(ii)]2. the manner in which contributions are to be

paid.

(II) THE REGULATIONS SHALL REQUIRE THAT, FOR ANY CALENDAR YEAR IN WHICH TABLE F IS APPLICABLE UNDER § 8-612(6) OF THIS TITLE, THE SECRETARY OFFER A VARIETY OF PAYMENT PLAN OPTIONS THAT SPREAD THROUGH THE END OF AUGUST THE DATES WHEN CONTRIBUTIONS ARE DUE ON TAXABLE WAGES FOR COVERED EMPLOYMENT OF THE FIRST 6 MONTHS OF THE CALENDAR YEAR.

- (2) <u>In accordance with regulations adopted by the Secretary, an</u> employing unit shall:
- (i) submit to the Secretary periodic reports for determination of the amount of contributions due; and
 - (ii) pay the contribution.
 - (3) For payment of contributions, a fractional part of a cent:
 - (i) that is less than one-half cent shall be disregarded; and
 - (ii) that is one-half cent or more shall be increased to 1 cent.

SECTION 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Labor and Employment

8–628.

- (A) Except as provided in § 8–201.1 of this title, a contribution or reimbursement payment that is due and unpaid shall accrue interest at the rate of 1.5% per month or part of a month from the date on which it is due until the Secretary receives the contribution or payment in lieu of contributions and the interest.
- (B) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN § 8-201.1 OF THIS TITLE, FOR ANY CALENDAR YEAR IN WHICH TABLE F IS APPLICABLE UNDER § 8-612(6) OF THIS SUBTITLE, A CONTRIBUTION OR REIMBURSEMENT PAYMENT THAT IS DUE AND UNPAID

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SHALL ACCRUE INTEREST AT THE RATE OF 0.5% PER MONTH OR PART OF A MONTH FROM THE DATE ON WHICH IT IS DUE UNTIL THE SECRETARY RECEIVES THE CONTRIBUTION OR PAYMENT IN LIEU OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND THE INTEREST.

SECTION 8. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, for the purpose of making any computation under § 8-612 of the Labor and Employment Article for calendar year 2011, any money receivable by the Unemployment Insurance Fund under the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act during calendar year 2010 as a result of the enactment of this Act shall be included among the total funds available for benefits under § 8-612(e) of the Labor and Employment Article.

SECTION 9. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, for calendar years 2010 and 2011, the Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation shall offer a variety of payment plan options that spread through the end of December the dates when contributions are due on taxable wages for covered employment of the first 9 months of the calendar year.

SECTION 10. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, notwithstanding § 8-628 of the Labor and Employment Article, as enacted by Section 7 of this Act, for calendar years 2010 and 2011, a contribution or reimbursement payment that is due and unpaid shall accrue interest at a rate of 0.5% per month or part of a month from the date on which it is due until the Secretary receives the contribution or payment in lieu of contributions and the interest.

SECTION 11. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(1) The Joint Committee on Unemployment Insurance Oversight shall study changes to the unemployment insurance system that would provide a cost-neutral plan to effectuate a graduated increase of the maximum weekly benefit to 54% of the average weekly wage.

- (2) (i) The study shall include a determination of whether the change made under § 8-803(d)(1)(iii) of the Labor and Employment Article, as enacted by Section 5 of this Act, serves as a disincentive for claimants to return to work and whether the computation under § 8-803(d)(1)(iii) of the Labor and Employment Article, as enacted by Section 5 of this Act, should be changed to be based on the amount of weekly wages. The Joint Committee shall review any research on this issue to assist in this determination.
- (ii) If the study indicates that the computation under § 8-803(d)(1)(iii) of the Labor and Employment Article, as enacted by Section 5 of this Act, should be changed in a manner that increases benefit payouts, the Joint Committee shall determine a method for obtaining an equivalent amount of savings to the Unemployment Insurance Fund.
- (iii) If the study is inconclusive, the Joint Committee shall continue each year to monitor whether the change made under § 8-803(d)(1)(iii) of the Labor and Employment Article, as enacted by Section 5 of this Act, serves as a disincentive for claimants to return to work.
- (3) The Joint Committee shall report on or before December 1, 2010, to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly with its recommendations.

SECTION 12. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 4 of this Act shall take effect March 1, 2012, and shall apply to all claims filed establishing a new benefit year on or after March 4, 2012.

SECTION 13. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Sections 6 and 7 of this Act shall take effect January 1, 2012, and shall apply to contributions on taxable wages for covered employment beginning on or after January 1, 2012.";

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FIN

in lines 3, 6, and 9, strike "4.", "5.", and "6.", respectively, and substitute " $\underline{14}$.", " $\underline{15}$.", and " $\underline{16}$.", respectively; in line 3, strike "Section 1" and substitute " $\underline{\text{Sections 1, 2, and}}$ $\underline{5}$ "; and in line 13, strike "4 and 5" and substitute " $\underline{12, 13, 14, \text{ and } 15}$ ".