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HOUSE BILL NO. 2559

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Finance
on February 2, 1997)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Cranwell)

A *BILL to amend and reenact §§ 60.2-533 and 60.2-602 of the Code of Virginia, relating to unemployment compensation.*

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 60.2-533 and 60.2-602 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 60.2-533. Fund balance factor.

A. As of July 1 of each calendar year, a fund balance factor, rounded to the nearest one-tenth of a percent, shall be determined as follows:

The net assets which shall be compared with the "adequate balance" as determined in subsection B of this section, shall be comprised of the balance which shall stand to the credit of the account of the Commonwealth of Virginia in the Unemployment Trust Fund in the Treasury of the United States; amounts withdrawn therefrom but not expended; employer payments not yet transferred to such account; net employer taxes receivable; and amounts due from claimants and other states, minus payables due to claimants, employers, other funds of the Virginia Employment Commission, and other states. The resulting percent shall be termed the "fund balance factor," except that if the percent determined is less than fifty percent, the fund balance factor shall be fifty percent.

B. As of July 1 of each calendar year, the Commission shall determine the "adequate balance" for the trust fund as follows:

For the ~~twenty-five~~ *twenty*-year period ending July 1 of the year of determination, the highest ratios of benefits divided by total wages of three separate consecutive four-quarter periods shall be averaged and multiplied by ~~4.5~~ *1.38* to determine the fund adequacy multiplier. The fund adequacy multiplier shall be multiplied by the total wages for the year in question to determine the "adequate fund balance" for that year.

C. A fund building rate of two-tenths percent will be added to all experience rating rates established pursuant to § 60.2-531, to all assigned tax rates established pursuant to §§ 60.2-515, 60.2-526, 60.2-527 and 60.2-538 except that such rate shall not be applied if the fund balance factor determined pursuant to subsection B of this section exceeds fifty percent.

§ 60.2-602. Weekly benefit amount.

For claims filed on or after ~~July 7, 1996~~ *July 6, 1997*, an eligible individual's weekly "benefit amount" shall be the amount appearing in Column B in the "Benefit Table" in this section on the line on which in Column A of such table, there appears the total wages for insured work paid to such individual in the two quarters of his base period in which such total wages were highest.

For claims filed prior to ~~July 7, 1996~~ *July 6, 1997*, an eligible individual's weekly "benefit amount" shall be computed under the provisions of this section in force on the date such claim was filed.

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40 2. That § 60.2-602 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

41 § 60.2-602. Weekly benefit amount.

42 ~~For~~Beginning July 1, 1998, and expiring July 1, 1999, for claims filed on or after ~~July 6, 1997~~ July 5,
43 1998, an eligible individual's weekly "benefit amount" shall be the amount appearing in Column B in
44 the "Benefit Table" in this section on the line on which in Column A of such table, there appears the
45 total wages for insured work paid to such individual in the two quarters of his base period in which
46 such total wages were highest.

47 For claims filed prior to ~~July 6, 1997~~ July 5, 1998, an eligible individual's weekly "benefit amount"
48 shall be computed under the provisions of this section in force on the date such claim was filed.

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3. That § 60.2-602 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 60.2-602. Weekly benefit amount.

~~For Beginning July 1, 1999, and expiring July 1, 2000, for~~ claims filed on or after ~~July 5, 1998 July~~
4, 1999, an eligible individual's weekly "benefit amount" shall be the amount appearing in Column B in
the "Benefit Table" in this section on the line on which in Column A of such table, there appears the
total wages for insured work paid to such individual in the two quarters of his base period in which
such total wages were highest.

For claims filed prior to ~~July 5, 1998 July 4, 1999~~, an eligible individual's weekly "benefit amount"
shall be computed under the provisions of this section in force on the date such claim was filed.

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4. That § 60.2-602 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 60.2-602. Weekly benefit amount.

~~For~~*Beginning July 1, 2000, for* claims filed on or after ~~July 4, 1999~~ *July 2, 2000*, an eligible individual's weekly "benefit amount" shall be the amount appearing in Column B in the "Benefit Table" in this section on the line on which in Column A of such table, there appears the total wages for insured work paid to such individual in the two quarters of his base period in which such total wages were highest.

For claims filed prior to ~~July 4, 1999~~ *July 2, 2000*, an eligible individual's weekly "benefit amount" shall be computed under the provisions of this section in force on the date such claim was filed.

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79 5. That notwithstanding the provisions of § 60.2-526, changes in employer unemployment
80 compensation tax rates resulting from fund adequacy multiplier and adequate fund balance
81 recalculations made pursuant to this act shall become effective on July 1, 1997. The Virginia
82 Employment Commission shall immediately notify employers of their recomputed tax rates for
83 wages paid during the final two quarters of 1997.