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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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H.B. 376
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Teska

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SUMMARY

- Reduces, for benefit years beginning on and after the bill's effective date, the maximum number of weeks for which an individual may receive unemployment benefits in a benefit year from 26 weeks to 20 weeks.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Maximum benefit week reduction

For benefit years beginning on and after its effective date, the bill reduces the maximum number of weeks for which an individual may receive unemployment benefits in a benefit year from 26 weeks to 20 weeks.

Currently, an individual is entitled to receive benefits for 20 weeks for the first 20 qualifying weeks of employment in the individual's base period. The individual may receive one additional benefit week for each qualifying week above 20 weeks, up to a maximum of 26 total benefit weeks. Under continuing law, the total benefit amount an individual may receive in a benefit year may not exceed an amount equal to the maximum number of weeks an individual may receive unemployment benefits times the individual's weekly benefit amount.¹

Background – eligibility; base period; benefit year; and amounts

Determining eligibility for unemployment benefits is a two-phase process. In the first phase, an individual files an initial application for a determination of benefit rights, which generally examines whether the individual worked enough and earned enough to be eligible for benefits. This application is used to establish the individual's benefit year, which is the 52-week period during which the individual may file claims. After filing a valid initial application and

¹ R.C. 4141.30(D), with conforming changes in R.C. 4141.33 and 4141.53.

establishing a benefit year, the individual enters the second phase of the process. In the second phase, the individual must file a claim for benefits each week the individual seeks benefits during the benefit year.²

To be eligible for benefits, an individual must have worked enough and earned enough during the individual's "base period." Typically, the base period is the first four of the last five completed calendar quarters before an individual applies for benefits. If an individual does not have sufficient weeks or wages during the base period, however, the individual may use an "alternate base period." This is the four most recently completed calendar quarters before applying.³

During the base period, an individual must have worked in employment covered by the Unemployment Compensation Law and received compensation for 20 weeks. For those 20 weeks, the individual's average weekly wage must have been at least 27.5% of the statewide average weekly wage for that year (\$338 for 2025). These weeks are referred to as "qualifying weeks."⁴

An individual's weekly unemployment benefit equals the lesser of 50% of the individual's average weekly wage during the base period or a statutory maximum set as a percentage of the statewide average weekly wage. The maximum weekly benefit amount varies with the number of eligible dependents that the individual has.⁵

For more information about unemployment benefit eligibility, amounts, and duration, see LSC's [Unemployment Benefit Eligibility and Amount Members Brief \(PDF\)](#), available at lsc.ohio.gov.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	06-23-25

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² R.C. 4141.01(R) and 4141.28, not in the bill.

³ R.C. 4141.01(Q), not in the bill.

⁴ R.C. 4141.01(O) and (R)(1), not in the bill. See page 6 of the [Worker's Guide to Unemployment Insurance \(PDF\)](#), which is available by conducting keyword "worker's guide" on the Department of Job and Family Services website: jfs.ohio.gov/home.

⁵ R.C. 4141.30(B) and (E).