

CHAPTER 25

(Senate Bill 94)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Sections 3 (b) and 3 (c) of Article 95A of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition and 1963 Supplement), title "Unemployment Insurance Law", sub-title "Benefits", to amend the unemployment insurance law with respect to the amount of benefits payable to claimants and for their dependents and to provide that dependents' allowances shall be regarded as benefits for computing contribution rates; and to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 8 (c) of said Article, sub-title "Contributions", with respect to basic contribution rates for employers and alternate contribution rates depending upon the balance in the unemployment insurance fund available for benefits.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Sections 3 (b) and 3 (c) of Article 95A of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition and 1963 Supplement), title "Unemployment Insurance Law", sub-title "Benefits", and Section 8 (c) of said Article, sub-title "Contributions", be and they are hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

3 (b) (1) An individual's "weekly benefit amount" shall be determined by applying the total of wages paid him for insured work in that calendar quarter of his base period in which such total wages were highest to column (A) in "schedule of benefits" set forth below. Upon determination as to the division of said schedule for which such individual's high quarter wages qualify, the weekly benefit amount shall be the amount shown on the same line in column (B).

Provided, if a claimant had not earned qualifying wages, as required in Section 4 (e) of this article, for the weekly benefit amount shown in the schedule of benefits on the basis of his earnings in the calendar quarter of the base period in which his earnings were highest, but did earn qualifying wages for a lower division on said schedule, he is to be considered eligible for benefits as shown in said lower division. Provided further, that in no event shall any claimant be permitted to drop down more than three divisions as shown on the said schedule of benefits.