

(5) A representative of the Maryland Retailers Association, designated by the Maryland Retailers Association;

(6) A representative of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce, designated by the Maryland Chamber of Commerce;

(7) A representative of the Job Opportunities Task Force, designated by the Job Opportunities Task Force;

(8) A representative of union labor, designated by the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO; and

(9) A representative of the academic profession who is knowledgeable in unemployment insurance law, designated jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates.

(c) The members of the committee serve at the pleasure of the presiding officer who appointed them.

(d) The President and the Speaker shall appoint a Senator and a Delegate, respectively, each to serve as co-chair.

(e) (1) The committee shall examine the condition of the unemployment insurance system in the State as a result of the implementation of this Act.

(2) The committee may examine the need for additional alterations to the unemployment insurance system, including the charging and taxation provisions and the eligibility and benefit provisions, in consideration of the fairness of the system and in order to maintain the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund at a level sufficient to ensure that benefits will be paid from the fund.

(f) (1) The Department of Legislative Services shall provide staffing for the committee.

(2) The Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation shall report to the committee on the condition of unemployment insurance in the State.

(g) A member of the committee may not receive compensation for serving on the committee, but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(h) The committee shall report its preliminary findings and recommendations on or before December 31, 2005 and its final findings and recommendations on or before December 31, 2006 to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 1 of this Act shall take effect January 1, 2006 and shall apply to tax contributions due that are based on taxable wages for calendar years beginning on January 1, 2006.

SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall take effect October 1, 2005 and shall apply to all claims filed establishing a new benefit year on or after October 2, 2005.