

## PREFACE

The Comparison of State Unemployment Insurance Laws provides state-by-state information on workers covered, benefit eligibility, methods of financing and other areas of interest in the UI program. It also includes information on the temporary disability programs operated in six states. The Comparison is published annually. This edition reflects the status of state laws enacted as of January 1, 2004.

The Comparison is issued solely for informational, reference, and research purposes. It is not an official interpretation of state UI laws. The state statute should be consulted for the full text of state law. Official interpretations of state laws are found in state rules and regulations, administrative and court decisions, and attorney general's opinions. Since some benefit extensions enacted in 2003 have already expired, they will not be discussed in this volume.

This edition continues our efforts to make the Comparison more user-friendly and to reflect areas of current interest in the UI program. Major changes from last year's version include:

- Restructuring of the tables in the Voluntarily Leaving Work section of the Nonmonetary Eligibility chapter to combine information about good cause for voluntarily leaving work in one table.
- Expanding the Availability of Part-time Workers table in the Nonmonetary Eligibility chapter to provide information on the specific circumstances under which individuals who are only available for part-time work would be eligible for benefits.
- Modifying the Special Provisions for Students table in the Nonmonetary Eligibility chapter. Instead of limiting to information on states that have specific disqualification provisions for students, the table now includes information on how all states handle issues related to student status.

We recognize that the Comparison is useful only if it contains accurate data. States are encouraged to advise us of any needed corrections, either through their Regional Offices or the contacts listed below. All users are invited to provide comments on the Comparison. We would like to thank those states that supplied updates and corrections.

The Comparison is available on-line at [www.workforcesecurity.doleta.gov](http://www.workforcesecurity.doleta.gov). (Click on "unemployment insurance;" then click on "publications.") Other documents available on-line are listed at the end of the Comparison.

Any comments or corrections may be sent to Suzanne Schwartz Simonetta at 202-693-3225, or at [simonetta.suzanne@dol.gov](mailto:simonetta.suzanne@dol.gov) or to Loryn Lancaster at [lancaster.loryn@dol.gov](mailto:lancaster.loryn@dol.gov) or at 202-693-2994. Comments may be mailed to either of the above at the following address:

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