

Public Law 102-164  
102d Congress

An Act

To provide a program of emergency unemployment compensation, and for other purposes.

Nov. 15, 1991  
[H.R. 3575]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act of 1991”.

Emergency  
Unemployment  
Compensation  
Act of 1991.

## TITLE I—EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION PROGRAM

SEC. 101. FEDERAL-STATE AGREEMENTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Any State which desires to do so may enter into and participate in an agreement under this Act with the Secretary of Labor (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”). Any State which is a party to an agreement under this Act may, upon providing 30 days written notice to the Secretary, terminate such agreement.

(b) **PROVISIONS OF AGREEMENT.**—Any agreement under subsection (a) shall provide that the State agency of the State will make payments of emergency unemployment compensation—

(1) to individuals who—

(A) have exhausted all rights to regular compensation under the State law,

(B) have no rights to compensation (including both regular compensation and extended compensation) with respect to a week under such law or any other State unemployment compensation law or to compensation under any other Federal law (and are not paid or entitled to be paid any additional compensation under any State or Federal law), and

(C) are not receiving compensation with respect to such week under the unemployment compensation law of Canada, and

(2) for any week of unemployment which begins in the individual’s period of eligibility (as defined in section 106(a)(2)).

(c) **EXHAUSTION OF BENEFITS.**—For purposes of subsection (b)(1)(A), an individual shall be deemed to have exhausted such individual’s rights to regular compensation under a State law when—

(1) no payments of regular compensation can be made under such law because such individual has received all regular compensation available to such individual based on employment or wages during such individual’s base period, or

(2) such individual's rights to such compensation have been terminated by reason of the expiration of the benefit year with respect to which such rights existed.

(d) **WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT.**—For purposes of any agreement under this Act—

(1) the amount of emergency unemployment compensation which shall be payable to any individual for any week of total unemployment shall be equal to the amount of the regular compensation (including dependents' allowances) payable to such individual during such individual's benefit year under the State law for a week of total unemployment,

(2) the terms and conditions of the State law which apply to claims for extended compensation and to the payment thereof shall apply to claims for emergency unemployment compensation and the payment thereof, except where inconsistent with the provisions of this Act or with the regulations or operating instructions of the Secretary promulgated to carry out this Act, and

(3) the maximum amount of emergency unemployment compensation payable to any individual for whom an account is established under section 102 shall not exceed the amount established in such account for such individual.

(e) **ELECTION.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal law (and if State law permits), the Governor of a State in a 20-week period or a 13-week period, as defined in section 102, is authorized to and may elect to trigger off an extended compensation period in order to provide payment of emergency unemployment compensation to individuals who have exhausted their rights to regular compensation under State law.

**SEC. 102. EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION ACCOUNT.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Any agreement under this Act shall provide that the State will establish, for each eligible individual who files an application for emergency unemployment compensation, an emergency unemployment compensation account with respect to such individual's benefit year.

(b) **AMOUNT IN ACCOUNT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The amount established in an account under subsection (a) shall be equal to the lesser of—

(A) 100 percent of the total amount of regular compensation (including dependents' allowances) payable to the individual with respect to the benefit year (as determined under the State law) on the basis of which the individual most recently received regular compensation, or

(B) the applicable limit times the individual's average weekly benefit amount for the benefit year.

(2) **APPLICABLE LIMIT.**—For purposes of this section—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph—

(i) In the case of weeks beginning during a 20-week period, the applicable limit is 20.

(ii) In the case of weeks beginning during a 13-week period, the applicable limit is 13.

(iii) In the case of weeks not beginning in a 20-week period or 13-week period, the applicable limit is 6.

(B) **APPLICABLE LIMIT NOT REDUCED.**—An individual's applicable limit for any week shall in no event be less than

the highest applicable limit in effect for any prior week for which emergency unemployment compensation was payable to the individual from the account involved.

(C) INCREASE IN APPLICABLE LIMIT.—If the applicable limit in effect for any week is higher than the applicable limit for any prior week, the applicable limit shall be the higher applicable limit, reduced (but not below zero) by the number of prior weeks for which emergency unemployment compensation was paid to the individual from the account involved.

(3) REDUCTION FOR EXTENDED BENEFITS.—The amount in an account under paragraph (1) shall be reduced (but not below zero) by the aggregate amount of extended compensation (if any) received by such individual relating to the same benefit year under the Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970.

(4) WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT.—For purposes of this subsection, an individual's weekly benefit amount for any week is the amount of regular compensation (including dependents' allowances) under the State law payable to such individual for such week for total unemployment.

(c) 20-WEEK PERIOD.—For purposes of this section—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The term "20-week period" means, with respect to any State, the period which—

(A) begins with the third week after the first week for which the requirements of paragraph (2) are satisfied, and

(B) ends with the third week after the first week for which the requirements of paragraph (2) are not satisfied.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the requirements of this paragraph are satisfied for any week if—

(A) the adjusted rate of insured unemployment in the State for the period consisting of such week and the immediately preceding 12 weeks is at least 5 percent, or

(B) the average rate of total unemployment in such State for the period consisting of the most recent 6-calendar month period (for which data are published before the close of such week) is at least 9 percent.

(d) 13-WEEK PERIOD.—For purposes of this section—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The term "13-week period" means, with respect to any State, the period which—

(A) begins with the third week after the first week for which the requirements of paragraph (2) are satisfied, and

(B) ends with the third week after the first week for which the requirements of paragraph (2) are not satisfied.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the requirements of this paragraph are satisfied for any week—

(A) if the adjusted rate of insured unemployment in the State for the period consisting of such week and the immediately preceding 12 weeks is at least 4 percent, or

(B) if—

(i) the adjusted rate of insured unemployment in the State for the period consisting of such week and the immediately preceding 12 weeks is at least 2.5 percent, and

(ii) the exhaustion rate in the State for the most recent month for which data are available before the close of such week is at least 29 percent.

**(e) SPECIAL RULES.—**

(1) **COORDINATION BETWEEN PERIODS.**—A 13-week period shall not be in effect for any week if a 20-week period is in effect for such week.

**(2) SPECIAL RULES FOR DETERMINING PERIODS.—**

(A) **MINIMUM PERIOD.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), a 20-week period or 13-week period shall last for not less than 13 weeks.

(B) **EXCEPTION.**—If, but for subparagraph (A), a 20-week period would be in effect for a State, such period shall take effect without regard to subparagraph (A).

(3) **NOTIFICATION BY SECRETARY.**—When a determination has been made that a 20-week period or 13-week period is beginning or ending with respect to a State, the Secretary shall cause notice of such determination to be published in the Federal Register.

**(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—**

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), no emergency unemployment compensation shall be payable to any individual under this Act for any week—

(A) beginning before the later of—

(i) November 17, 1991, or

(ii) the first week following the week in which an agreement under this Act is entered into, or

(B) beginning after July 4, 1992.

(2) **TRANSITION.**—In the case of an individual who is receiving emergency unemployment compensation for a week which includes July 4, 1992, such compensation shall continue to be payable to such individual in accordance with subsection (b) for any week beginning in a period of consecutive weeks for each of which the individual meets the eligibility requirements of this Act.

**(3) REACHBACK PROVISIONS.—**

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—If—

(i) any individual exhausted such individual's rights to regular compensation (or extended compensation) under the State law after February 28, 1991, and before the first week following November 16, 1991 (or, if later, the first week following the week in which the agreement under this Act is entered into), and

(ii)(I) the adjusted rate of insured unemployment (determined on the basis of the information referred to in subsection (g)(2)) in such State for the 13-week period ending on October 19, 1991, is at least 3 percent, or (II) a 20-week period or 13-week period is in effect in such State for the 1st week for which emergency unemployment compensation may be payable in such State under this title,

such individual shall be entitled to emergency unemployment compensation under this Act in the same manner as if such individual's benefit year ended no earlier than the last day of such following week.

(B) **LIMITATION OF BENEFITS.**—In the case of an individual who has exhausted such individual's rights to both regular and extended compensation, any emergency unemployment compensation payable under subparagraph (A) shall be reduced in accordance with subsection (b)(3).

Federal  
Register,  
publication.

**(g) TRANSITIONAL RULES.—**

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—For purposes of determining whether a 20-week period or 13-week period is in effect with respect to any State for the 1st week for which emergency unemployment compensation may be payable under this title in such State, this Act shall be treated as having been in effect for all weeks ending on or after October 19, 1991.

Effective date.

(2) **SPECIAL RULES.**—A 20-week period or 13-week period shall begin in any State with the 1st week for which emergency unemployment compensation may be payable in such State under this title if, on the basis of information submitted to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives by the Department of Labor on November 7, 1991, the requirements of subsection (c)(2) or (d)(2), as the case may be, are satisfied by such State for the week which ends on October 19, 1991. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the exhaustion rate shall be determined on the basis of (A) the monthly average number of individuals exhausting their rights to regular compensation during the 8-month period ending with September of 1991, and (B) the monthly average number of individuals receiving first payments of regular compensation during the 8-month period ending with March of 1991.

**SEC. 103. PAYMENTS TO STATES HAVING AGREEMENTS FOR THE PAYMENT OF EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.**

(a) **GENERAL RULE.**—There shall be paid to each State which has entered into an agreement under this Act an amount equal to 100 percent of the emergency unemployment compensation paid to individuals by the State pursuant to such agreement.

(b) **TREATMENT OF REIMBURSABLE COMPENSATION.**—No payment shall be made to any State under this section in respect of any compensation to the extent the State is entitled to reimbursement in respect of such compensation under the provisions of any Federal law other than this Act or chapter 85 of title 5, United States Code. A State shall not be entitled to any reimbursement under such chapter 85 in respect of any compensation to the extent the State is entitled to reimbursement under this Act in respect of such compensation.

(c) **DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT.**—Sums payable to any State by reason of such State having an agreement under this Act shall be payable, either in advance or by way of reimbursement (as may be determined by the Secretary), in such amounts as the Secretary estimates the State will be entitled to receive under this Act for each calendar month, reduced or increased, as the case may be, by any amount by which the Secretary finds that the Secretary's estimates for any prior calendar month were greater or less than the amounts which should have been paid to the State. Such estimates may be made on the basis of such statistical, sampling, or other method as may be agreed upon by the Secretary and the State agency of the State involved.

**SEC. 104. FINANCING PROVISIONS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Funds in the extended unemployment compensation account (as established by section 905 of the Social Security Act) of the Unemployment Trust Fund shall be used for the making of payments to States having agreements entered into under this Act.

(b) **CERTIFICATION.**—The Secretary shall from time to time certify to the Secretary of the Treasury for payment to each State the sums payable to such State under this Act. The Secretary of the Treasury, prior to audit or settlement by the General Accounting Office, shall make payments to the State in accordance with such certification, by transfers from the extended unemployment compensation account (as established by section 905 of the Social Security Act) to the account of such State in the Unemployment Trust Fund.

(c) **ASSISTANCE TO STATES.**—There are hereby authorized to be appropriated, without fiscal year limitation, such funds as may be necessary for purposes of assisting States (as provided in title III of the Social Security Act) in meeting the costs of administration of agreements under this Act.

(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR CERTAIN PAYMENTS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated from the general fund of the Treasury, without fiscal year limitation, to the extended unemployment compensation account (as established by section 905 of the Social Security Act) such sums as may be necessary to make the payments under this section in respect of—

(1) compensation payable under chapter 85 of title 5, United States Code, and

(2) compensation payable on the basis of services to which section 3309(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 applies.

Amounts appropriated pursuant to the preceding sentence shall not be required to be repaid.

#### **SEC. 105. FRAUD AND OVERPAYMENTS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—If an individual knowingly has made, or caused to be made by another, a false statement or representation of a material fact, or knowingly has failed, or caused another to fail, to disclose a material fact, and as a result of such false statement or representation or of such nondisclosure such individual has received an amount of emergency unemployment compensation under this Act to which he was not entitled, such individual—

(1) shall be ineligible for further emergency unemployment compensation under this Act in accordance with the provisions of the applicable State unemployment compensation law relating to fraud in connection with a claim for unemployment compensation, and

(2) shall be subject to prosecution under section 1001 of title 18, United States Code.

(b) **REPAYMENT.**—In the case of individuals who have received amounts of emergency unemployment compensation under this Act to which they were not entitled, the State shall require such individuals to repay the amounts of such emergency unemployment compensation to the State agency, except that the State agency may waive such repayment if it determines that—

(1) the payment of such emergency unemployment compensation was without fault on the part of any such individual, and

(2) such repayment would be contrary to equity and good conscience.

(c) **RECOVERY BY STATE AGENCY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The State agency may recover the amount to be repaid, or any part thereof, by deductions from any emergency unemployment compensation payable to such individual under this Act or from any unemployment compensation payable to such individual under any Federal unemploy-

ment compensation law administered by the State agency or under any other Federal law administered by the State agency which provides for the payment of any assistance or allowance with respect to any week of unemployment, during the 3-year period after the date such individuals received the payment of the emergency unemployment compensation to which they were not entitled, except that no single deduction may exceed 50 percent of the weekly benefit amount from which such deduction is made.

(2) **OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING.**—No repayment shall be required, and no deduction shall be made, until a determination has been made, notice thereof and an opportunity for a fair hearing has been given to the individual, and the determination has become final.

(d) **REVIEW.**—Any determination by a State agency under this section shall be subject to review in the same manner and to the same extent as determinations under the State unemployment compensation law, and only in that manner and to that extent.

#### SEC. 106. DEFINITIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—For purposes of this Act:

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The terms “compensation”, “regular compensation”, “extended compensation”, “additional compensation”, “benefit year”, “base period”, “State”, “State agency”, “State law”, and “week” have the respective meanings given such terms under section 205 of the Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970.

(2) **PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY.**—An individual’s period of eligibility consists of any week which begins on or after November 17, 1991, and which (except as provided in section 102(f)(2)) begins before July 4, 1992; except that an individual shall not have any period of eligibility unless his benefit year ends on or after November 16, 1991.

(3) **ADJUSTED RATE OF INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT.**—The adjusted rate of insured unemployment for any period shall be determined in the same manner as the rate of insured unemployment is determined under section 203 of the Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970; except that individuals exhausting their rights to regular compensation during the most recent 3 calendar months for which data are available before the close of the period for which such rate is being determined shall be taken into account as if they were individuals filing claims for regular compensation for each week during the period for which such rate is being determined.

(4) **EXHAUSTION RATE.**—The exhaustion rate for any month is the percentage obtained by dividing—

(A) the monthly average number of individuals exhausting their rights to regular compensation under the State law during the 12-month period ending with such month, by

(B) the monthly average number of individuals receiving first payments of regular compensation under the State law during the 12-month period ending with the 6th month of the 12-month period referred to in subparagraph (A).

(5) **RATE OF TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT.**—The term “rate of total unemployment” means, with respect to any period, the average unadjusted total rate of unemployment (as determined by the Secretary) for a State for such period.

(b) **ROUNDING.**—For purposes of this Act, any rate determined under paragraph (3), (4), or (5) of subsection (a) shall be rounded to the nearest 1/10th of a percent.

## **TITLE II—DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM TO PROVIDE JOB SEARCH ASSISTANCE**

Contracts.

### **SEC. 201. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM TO PROVIDE JOB SEARCH ASSISTANCE.**

(a) **GENERAL RULE.**—The Secretary of Labor (hereafter in this title referred to as the “Secretary”) shall carry out a demonstration program under this title for purposes of determining the feasibility of implementing job search assistance programs. To carry out such demonstration program, the Secretary shall enter into agreements with 3 States which—

(1) apply to participate in such program, and

(2) demonstrate to the Secretary that they are capable of implementing the provisions of an agreement under this section.

(b) **SELECTION OF STATES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In determining whether to enter into an agreement with a State under this section, the Secretary shall take into consideration at least—

(A) the size, geography, and occupational and industrial composition of the State,

(B) the adequacy of State resources to carry out a job search assistance program,

(C) the range and extent of specialized services to be provided by the State to individuals covered by the agreement, and

(D) the design of the evaluation to be applied by the State to the program.

(2) **REPLICATION OF PRIOR DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.**—At least 1 of the States selected by the Secretary under subsection (a) shall be a State which has operated a successful demonstration project with respect to job search assistance under a contract with the Department of Labor. The demonstration program under this title of any such State shall, at a minimum, replicate the project it operated under such contract in the same geographic areas.

(c) **PROVISIONS OF AGREEMENT.**—Any agreement entered into with a State under this section shall—

(1) provide that the State will implement a job search assistance program during the 1-year period specified in such agreement,

(2) provide that such implementation will begin not later than the date 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act,

(3) contain such provisions as may be necessary to ensure an accurate evaluation of the effectiveness of a job search assistance program, including—

(A) random selection of eligible individuals for participation in the program and for inclusion in a control group, and