

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, 2003.

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 2002 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:

- The Nonmonetary Eligibility chapter has been restructured.
- Revised tables relating to reasons for disqualification have been updated to capture whether the issue is specifically addressed in state law, rule, or through interpretation. (Previous editions were limited to information specifically addressed in state laws.)
- A table has been added showing those states treating workers as having voluntarily quit when they do not contact the temporary help employer for whom they have completed an assignment.
- Information related to overpayments has been placed in a separate chapter.
- Tables related to surtaxes payable to a state's unemployment fund (e.g., solvency and socialized cost taxes) now immediately follow the table on basic contribution rates. (In the previous edition, all surtaxes were presented together.)

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 who voluntarily supplied information for the revised tables in the Nonmonetary Eligibility chapter.

The Comparison is available on-line at 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 simonetta.suzanne@dol.gov or 202-693-3225, or Loryn Lancaster at lancaster.loryn@dol.gov or 202693-2994. Comments may be mailed to either of the above at the following address:

U.S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration
OWS/DL
Room S-4231
Washington, D.C. 20210