SENATE BILL NO. 123-SENATORS BUCK; KRASNER AND STONE

FEBRUARY 8, 2023

Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to unemployment compensation. (BDR 53-285)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.

Effect on the State: Yes.

EXPLANATION - Matter in bolded italics is new; matter between brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to unemployment compensation; requiring the Administrator of the Employment Security Division of Department of Employment, Training Rehabilitation to establish and maintain a computerized system for the processing of claims for benefits; revising provisions relating to certain determinations made by the Administrator concerning eligibility for benefits; creating the Office of the Ombudsman for Unemployment Benefits; requiring all benefits to be paid by check; requiring the Administrator to post certain information on an Internet website; revising the base period for determining entitlement to benefits; revising provisions relating to the electronic provision of certain documents and communications; revising provisions relating to the overpayment of benefits; removing provisions authorizing the Administrator to suspend, modify, amend or waive certain requirements under certain circumstances; revising procedures and requirements concerning certain appeals; modifying certain requirements concerning benefits paid in calendar year 2022; making an appropriation; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

The Unemployment Compensation Law, in general: (1) requires employers to pay contributions into the Unemployment Compensation Fund at a certain rate of the wages paid by the employer for employment; and (2) makes persons who have become unemployed and comply with certain requirements eligible for benefits





from the Unemployment Compensation Fund in an amount based on the person's previous wages for employment. (Chapter 612 of NRS)

Existing law sets forth procedures for filing a claim for benefits. (NRS 612.455-612.530) **Section 2** of this bill requires the Administrator of the Employment Security Division of the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation to establish and maintain a computerized system for the processing of claims for benefits. **Section 2** sets forth certain requirements for the system. **Section 25** of this bill makes an appropriation for the costs of establishing and maintaining the computerized system.

Existing law requires the Administrator to make certain determinations with respect to the benefit status and eligibility status of each person who files a claim for benefits. (NRS 612.460, 612.465, 612.470) **Sections 16 and 17** of this bill set forth certain time frames in which the Administrator is required to make such determinations. **Section 3** of this bill prohibits the Administrator from denying benefits as part of a policy of denying all claims for benefits of a particular group or category.

Section 4 of this bill prohibits the Administrator from making a determination denying benefits to an otherwise eligible insured worker on the grounds of nondisclosure or misrepresentation of a material fact unless the Administrator first provides the insured worker notice and a hearing. Section 4 sets forth certain requirements for the conduct of such a hearing.

Section 5 of this bill creates the Office of the Ombudsman for Unemployment Benefits and prescribes the duties of the Ombudsman, which include, among others, advocating on behalf of persons applying for and receiving benefits and providing assistance to such persons.

Section 6 of this bill requires all benefits to be paid by check, made payable to the person to whom the benefits are payable. **Section 7** of this bill requires the Administrator to post certain information on an Internet website established and maintained by the Administrator.

To be eligible for unemployment benefits, a person is required to have been paid a certain amount of wages during a specified period of time referred to as the person's "base period." (NRS 612.375) **Section 8** of this bill revises the definition of the term "base period" to remove provisions providing for the use of an alternative base period for persons who would otherwise be ineligible for unemployment benefits.

Sections 9, 12-14, 22 and 23 of this bill remove certain provisions of existing law authorizing the Administrator to suspend, modify, amend or waive certain provisions of the Unemployment Compensation Law under certain circumstances.

Under existing law, the Administrator or Division is authorized to provide documents or communications to a person electronically if the person has requested to receive documents or communications electronically. (NRS 612.253) **Section 10** of this bill provides that the electronic provision of any document or communication to a person who has requested such electronic provision is deemed to satisfy any requirement under existing state law that the Administrator or Division mail a document or communication. However, if the document or communication involves a substantive decision concerning benefits, as determined by regulation of the Administrator, **section 10** requires the document or communication to also be mailed.

Existing law sets forth certain requirements for the collection of overpayments of benefits by the Administrator. (NRS 612.365) **Section 11** of this bill requires the Administrator to collect certain overpayments paid to a person who is eligible for regular benefits but received other benefits by deducting the amount overpaid from the regular benefits payable to the person.

Sections 18-21 of this bill revise procedures governing the filing and conduct of appeals before an Appeal Tribunal and the Board of Review. Sections 19 and 21



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of this bill require the Administrator to pay to certain persons who prevail in such appeals reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

Under existing law, an employer's contribution rate is based on the employer's experience rating, which reflects the amount of unemployment compensation benefits that are paid to former employees and charged to the employer's experience rating record. Existing law requires, in general, that a certain percentage of unemployment benefits paid to a person be charged against the experience rating record of each employer from which the person received wages during his or her base period. (NRS 612.550) **Section 22** of this bill prohibits any amount of benefits paid to a person which constitute overpayments of benefits from being charged to the person's base-period employers. **Section 26** of this bill provides that benefits paid to a person during the second or third calendar quarter of calendar year 2022 are prohibited from being charged against the experience rating record of any of the person's base period employers.

Existing law authorizes certain employers to reimburse the Unemployment Compensation Fund for benefits paid to their former employees rather than making quarterly contributions to the Fund. Existing law requires the Administrator to, after the end of each calendar quarter or at the end of any other period as determined by the Administrator, determine the amount of reimbursement due from each employer who has elected to make reimbursement in lieu of contributions and bill each employer for that amount. (NRS 612.553) **Section 24** of this bill prohibits that amount from including benefits paid to a person that constitute an overpayment of benefits. **Section 26** requires the Administrator, in determining the amount of reimbursement due from an employer who has elected to make reimbursement in lieu of contributions, to reduce by not more than 50 percent the amount of reimbursement that is attributable to benefits paid to a person during the second or third calendar quarter of calendar year 2022.

Section 15 of this bill makes a conforming change to indicate the proper placement of **sections 3 and 4** in the Nevada Revised Statutes.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

- **Section 1.** Chapter 612 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 7, inclusive, of this act.
- Sec. 2. 1. The Administrator shall establish and maintain a computerized system for the processing of claims for benefits. Such a system must:
- (a) Allow a person to file a claim through an Internet website connected to the system for all benefits to which the person may be entitled, including, without limitation, regular benefits, extended benefits or benefits payable to a person under any federal program administered by the Administrator, including, without limitation, benefits payable to a person pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 9021 or 42 U.S.C. § 5177;
- (b) Allow a person to file an appeal from a determination of the Administrator pursuant to NRS 612.495 or from a decision of





an Appeal Tribunal pursuant to NRS 612.510 through an Internet website connected to the system;

- (c) Provide for the efficient processing of all claims for benefits, including, without limitation, regular benefits, extended benefits or benefits payable to a person under any federal program administered by the Administrator, including, without limitation, benefits payable to a person pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 9021 or 42 U.S.C. § 5177;
- (d) Allow a person who exhausts his or her regular benefits to automatically transition to any other benefits for which the person may be eligible, including, without limitation, extended benefits or benefits payable to a person under any federal program administered by the Administrator, including, without limitation, benefits payable to a person pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 9021 or 42 U.S.C. § 5177; and
- (e) Allow for data which is submitted into the system in connection with a claim for a type of benefits to be shared with respect to a claim for other benefits for which a person may be eligible, so as to minimize the number of times a person is required to submit the same data into the system.
- 2. As used in this section, "regular benefits" and "extended benefits" have the meanings ascribed to them in NRS 612.377.
- Sec. 3. 1. Each person who makes a claim for benefits is entitled to an individual evaluation of his or her status as an insured worker and his or her eligibility for benefits with respect to any week of unemployment.
- 2. The Administrator shall not deny benefits to any person as part of a policy of denying all claims for benefits of a particular group or category.
- Sec. 4. 1. Before the Administrator may make a determination denying benefits to an otherwise eligible insured worker with respect to any week occurring in the benefit year of the insured worker on the grounds of nondisclosure or misrepresentation of a material fact, the Administrator must provide the insured worker notice and a hearing.
- 2. A hearing conducted pursuant to this section must be conducted before an Appeal Tribunal appointed by the Administrator pursuant to NRS 612.490. The provisions of this chapter governing the conduct of hearings on appealed claims before an Appeal Tribunal, to the extent that they are not inconsistent with the provisions of this section and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto, also apply to a hearing conducted pursuant to this section.
- 3. At a hearing conducted pursuant to this section, the Administrator bears the burden of showing that the insured





worker has engaged in the nondisclosure or misrepresentation of a material fact in connection with the claim for benefits.

- 4. After a hearing conducted pursuant to this section, the Appeal Tribunal shall make its findings promptly and on the basis thereof render a decision as to whether to authorize the Administrator to make the determination denying benefits. A party may appeal to the Board of Review from the decision of the Appeal Tribunal pursuant to this section in the same manner prescribed by this chapter for the appeal from a decision of an Appeal Tribunal regarding a determination of benefit status.
- 5. The Administrator may adopt regulations prescribing additional requirements for the conduct of a hearing conducted pursuant to this section.
- Sec. 5. 1. The Office of the Ombudsman for Unemployment Benefits is hereby created within the Division. The Ombudsman shall:
- (a) Advocate on behalf of persons applying for or receiving benefits;
- (b) Receive, investigate and attempt to solve complaints made by or on behalf of persons applying for or receiving benefits;
- (c) Provide any necessary assistance to persons applying for or receiving benefits;
- (d) Provide education to the public concerning the processes for applying for and receiving benefits; and
- (e) Perform such other tasks as are necessary to carry out the duties and functions of his or her office.
- 2. The Administrator shall appoint the Ombudsman for Unemployment Benefits. The Ombudsman is in the unclassified service of the State.
- Sec. 6. All benefits paid pursuant to this chapter must be paid by check, made payable to the person to whom the benefits are payable. The amount of each check must not exceed the total amount of benefits payable to the person for any I week.
- Sec. 7. The Administrator shall post on an Internet website established and maintained by the Administrator:
- 1. Instructions describing the manner in which a person may file an appeal from a determination of the Administrator pursuant to NRS 612.495 or from a decision of an Appeal Tribunal pursuant to NRS 612.510.
- 2. Information relating to claims for benefits, including, without limitation, statistics relating to the number of claims for benefits filed in any week, the status of such claims and the results of any decision of an Appeal Tribunal or the Board of Review relating to such claims. The Administrator shall ensure that information posted on the Internet website pursuant to this





subsection is posted in a manner so that it cannot be used to identify and does not provide a reasonable basis upon which to identify a person about whom the information relates.

Sec. 8. NRS 612.025 is hereby amended to read as follows:

612.025 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section and in NRS 612.344, "base period" means the first 4 of the last 5 completed calendar quarters immediately preceding the first day of a person's benefit year, except that if one calendar quarter of the base period so established has been used in a previous determination of the person's entitlement to benefits the base period is the first 4 completed calendar quarters immediately preceding the first day of the person's benefit year.

2. [If a person is not entitled to benefits using the base period as defined in subsection 1 but would be entitled to benefits if the base period were the last 4 completed calendar quarters immediately preceding the first day of the person's benefit year, "base period" means the last 4 completed calendar quarters immediately preceding the first day of the person's benefit year.

— 3.] In the case of a combined wage claim pursuant to the reciprocal arrangements provided in NRS 612.295, the base period is that applicable under the unemployment compensation law of the paying state.

Sec. 9. NRS 612.220 is hereby amended to read as follows:

612.220 The Administrator:

1. Shall administer this chapter.

2. Is responsible for the administration, through the Administrator of the Commission on Postsecondary Education, of the provisions of NRS 394.383 to 394.560, inclusive.

3. Has power and authority to adopt, amend or rescind such rules and regulations consistent with the provisions of federal law, to employ, in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, such persons, make such expenditures, require such reports, make such investigations, and take such other action as the Administrator deems necessary or suitable to that end.

4. Shall determine his or her own organization and methods of procedure for the Division in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

[5. To the extent allowed by federal law, may, by regulation, suspend, modify, amend or waive any requirement of this chapter for the duration of a state of emergency or declaration of disaster proclaimed pursuant to NRS 414.070 and for any additional period of time during which the emergency or disaster directly affects the requirement of this chapter if:

(a) The Administrator determines the action is:





- (1) In the best interest of the Division, this State or the general health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this State; or
- (2) Necessary to comply with instructions received from the Department of Labor; and
- (b) The action of the Administrator is approved by the Governor.]
 - **Sec. 10.** NRS 612.253 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 612.253 1. Except as otherwise provided *in subsection 2 and* by federal [or state] law, the Administrator or the Division may electronically provide a form, notice, claim, bill or other document or communication to a person if the person has requested to receive communications by electronic transmission, by electronic mail or other electronic communication.
- [2.] The electronic provision of such a [form, notice, claim, bill or other] document or communication [pursuant to subsection 1 does not] is deemed to satisfy [or relieve] any obligation of the Administrator or Division [of any obligation] under [federal or state law] this chapter to provide the [form, notice, claim, bill or other] document or communication [in the manner required by the applicable state or federal law.] by mail, including, without limitation, first-class mail or certified mail.
- 2. If the Administrator or Division provides to a person a document or communication described in subsection 1 electronically, the Administrator or Division shall also mail, by first-class or certified mail, the document or communication to the person if the document or communication involves a substantive decision concerning unemployment benefits. The Administrator shall adopt regulations specifying documents and communications which involve a substantive decision concerning unemployment benefits for the purposes of this section.
- 3. For any period of time set forth in this chapter that begins to run on the date on which a document or communication is mailed, the period of time:
- (a) If the document or communication is provided electronically pursuant to this section, shall be deemed to begin to run on the date on which the document or communication is provided electronically; and
- (b) If the document or communication is mailed, rather than provided electronically pursuant to this section, shall be deemed to be extended by 3 days.
 - **Sec. 11.** NRS 612.365 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 612.365 1. Any person who is overpaid any amount as benefits under this chapter is liable for the amount overpaid unless:
- (a) The overpayment was not due to fraud, misrepresentation or willful nondisclosure on the part of the recipient; and





- (b) The overpayment was received without fault on the part of the recipient, and its recovery would be against equity and good conscience, as determined by the Administrator.
- 2. The amount of the overpayment must be assessed to the liable person, and the person must be notified of the basis of the assessment. The notice must specify the amount for which the person is liable. In the absence of fraud, misrepresentation or willful nondisclosure, notice of the assessment must be mailed, electronically transmitted or personally served not later than 1 year after the close of the benefit year in which the overpayment was made.
- 3. Except as otherwise provided in [subsection] subsections 4 [,] and 5, at any time within 5 years after the notice of overpayment, the Administrator may recover the amount of the overpayment by using the same methods of collection provided in NRS 612.625 to 612.645, inclusive, 612.685 and 612.686 for the collection of past due contributions or by deducting the amount of the overpayment from any benefits payable to the liable person under this chapter.
- 4. If the overpayment is due to a person who is eligible for regular benefits being paid benefits other than regular benefits, including, without limitation, extended benefits or benefits payable to a person under any federal program administered by the Administrator, including, without limitation, benefits payable to a person pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 9021 or 42 U.S.C. § 5177, the Administrator shall recover the amount of the overpayment by deducting the amount of the overpayment from the amount of regular benefits payable to the person.
- 5. If the overpayment is due to fraud, misrepresentation or willful nondisclosure, the Administrator may, within 10 years after the notice of overpayment, recover any amounts due in accordance with the provisions of NRS 612.7102 to 612.7116, inclusive.
- [5.] 6. The Administrator may waive recovery or adjustment of all or part of the amount of any such overpayment which the Administrator finds to be uncollectible or the recovery or adjustment of which the Administrator finds to be administratively impracticable.
- [6.] 7. To the extent allowed pursuant to federal law, the Administrator may assess any administrative fee prescribed by an applicable agency of the United States regarding the recovery of such overpayments.
- [7.] 8. Any person against whom liability is determined under this section may appeal therefrom within 11 days after the date the notice provided for in this section was mailed to, electronically transmitted to or served upon, the person. An appeal must be made and conducted in the manner provided in this chapter for the appeals





from determinations of benefit status. The 11-day period provided for in this subsection may be extended for good cause shown.

- As used in this section, "regular benefits" and "extended benefits" have the meanings ascribed to them in NRS 612.377.
 - Sec. 12. NRS 612.420 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 612.420 [1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, a] A person is disqualified for benefits for any week with respect to which the person receives either wages in lieu of notice or severance
- [2. The Administrator may, by regulation, waive or modify the period of disqualification set forth in subsection 1:
- 12 (a) For good cause; or

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- (b) If the Administrator determines such action is necessary to expedite benefits and protect the health, safety and well-being of claimants.
 - Sec. 13. NRS 612.425 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 612.425 [1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, a] A claimant shall be disqualified for benefits for any week with respect to which the claimant is on paid vacation.
- [2. The Administrator may, by regulation, waive or modify the period of disqualification set forth in subsection 1:
- (a) For good cause; or
- (b) If the Administrator determines such action is necessary to expedite benefits and protect the health, safety and well-being of claimants.
 - Sec. 14. NRS 612.430 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 612.430 [1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, a] A claimant shall be disqualified for benefits for any week following termination of work, which could have been compensated by vacation pay had termination not occurred, if the claimant actually receives such compensation at the time of separation or on regular paydays immediately following termination.
- [2. The Administrator may, by regulation, waive or modify the period of disqualification set forth in subsection 1:
- (a) For good cause; or
- (b) If the Administrator determines such action is necessary to expedite benefits and protect the health, safety and well-being of claimants.
 - Sec. 15. NRS 612.450 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 40 612.450 Claims for benefits shall be made in the manner prescribed by or authorized by NRS 612.455 to 612.530, inclusive, and sections 3 and 4 of this act and in no other way.
 - **Sec. 16.** NRS 612.460 is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - 612.460 1. An unemployed person may file a request for a determination of the person's benefit status in accordance with





regulations prescribed by the Administrator. Upon such request, the Administrator shall furnish the person with a written determination [...] not later than 30 days after the date on which the person filed the request for a determination. If it is determined that the claimant is an insured worker, the determination must include a statement as to the amount of wages for insured work paid to the claimant by each employer in his or her base period, and the employers by whom those wages were paid. It must include also the claimant's benefit year, his or her weekly benefit amount and the maximum amount of benefits that may be paid to the claimant for his or her unemployment during the benefit year. All base-period employers of a claimant must be notified promptly when a claimant files a request for determination of his or her benefit status which results in a determination that the claimant is an insured worker.

2. If it is determined that the person is not an insured worker, the determination must include a statement as to the reason therefor, the amount of wages paid to the person by each employer during his or her base period and the employers by whom those wages were paid.

Sec. 17. NRS 612.470 is hereby amended to read as follows:

612.470 1. The Administrator shall [also promptly], not more than 14 days after a claimant who is an insured worker has filed a claim for benefits for a week of unemployment during the benefit year of the insured worker, determine whether [an] the insured worker is ineligible or disqualified with respect to [any] that week. [occurring within the benefit year.]

2. The insured worker must be given a written notice of the determination. A benefit payment shall be deemed a determination with respect to the week for which payment is made and notice to the claimant that the claimant is eligible to receive payment for the period covered thereby. If it is determined that the insured worker is not eligible to receive benefits or is disqualified for any week or weeks, the worker must be promptly furnished with a written notice of the determination, which must give the reasons for the determination and the length of the disqualification.

Sec. 18. NRS 612.495 is hereby amended to read as follows:

612.495 1. Any person entitled to a notice of determination or redetermination may file an appeal from the determination with an Appeal Tribunal, and the Administrator shall be a party respondent thereto. The appeal must be filed within 11 days after the date of mailing, electronic transmission or personal service of the notice of determination or redetermination. The 11-day period may be extended for good cause shown. Any employing unit whose rights may be adversely affected may be permitted by the Appeal Tribunal to intervene as a party respondent to the appeal.





- An appeal shall be deemed to be filed [on the date it]:
- (a) If the appeal is personally served to the Division, on the date the appeal is delivered to the Division. [, or, if it]
- (b) If the appeal is mailed [], by certified mail, on the postmarked date appearing on the envelope in which it was mailed, if postage is prepaid and the envelope is properly addressed to the office of the Division that mailed notice of the person's claim for benefits to each employer entitled to notice under NRS 612.475.
- (c) If the appeal is submitted through an Internet website connected to the computerized system described in section 2 of this act, on the date on which the appeal is submitted.
- 3. The 11-day period provided for in this section must be computed by excluding the day the determination was mailed, electronically transmitted or personally served, and including the last day of the 11-day period, unless the last day is a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, in which case that day must also be excluded.
- 4. The Appeal Tribunal may permit the withdrawal of the appeal by the appellant at the appellant's request if there is no coercion or fraud involved in the withdrawal.
 - **Sec. 19.** NRS 612.500 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 612.500 1. A reasonable opportunity for a fair hearing on appeals must be promptly afforded all parties. Such a hearing must be held not later than 30 days after the date on which the appeal was filed, as determined pursuant to NRS 612.495.
- 2. An Appeal Tribunal shall inquire into and develop all facts bearing on the issues and shall receive and consider evidence without regard to statutory and common-law rules. In addition to the issues raised by the appealed determination, the Appeal Tribunal may consider all issues affecting the claimant's rights to benefits from the beginning of the period covered by the determination to the date of the hearing.
- 3. An Appeal Tribunal shall include in the record and consider as evidence all records of the Administrator that are material to the issues.
- 4. The Administrator shall adopt regulations governing the manner of filing appeals and the conduct of hearings and appeals consistent with the provisions of this chapter.
- 5. A record of all testimony and proceedings on appeal must be kept for 6 months after the date on which a decision of an Appeal Tribunal is mailed or electronically transmitted, but testimony need not be transcribed unless further review is initiated. If further review is not initiated within that period, the record may be destroyed.
- 6. Witnesses subpoenaed are entitled to fees in the amounts specified in NRS 50.225, and the fees of witnesses so subpoenaed shall be deemed part of the expense of administering this chapter.





- 7. An Appeal Tribunal shall not participate in an appeal hearing in which the Appeal Tribunal has a direct or indirect interest.
- 8. If the records of an appeal have been destroyed pursuant to subsection 5, a person aggrieved by the decision in the appeal may petition a district court for a trial de novo. If the district court finds that good cause exists for the party's failure to pursue the administrative remedies provided in NRS 612.510, it may grant the petitioner's request.
- 9. If a party to whom the Administrator denied benefits prevails in an appeal before an Appeal Tribunal, the Administrator shall pay all costs and reasonable attorney's fees incurred by the party in connection with the appeal.
 - **Sec. 20.** NRS 612.510 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 612.510 1. After a hearing, an Appeal Tribunal shall make its findings promptly and on the basis thereof affirm, modify or reverse the determination. Each party must be promptly furnished a copy of the decision and the supporting findings by mail or electronic transmission.
- 2. The decision is final unless an appeal to the Board of Review or a request for review or appeal to the Board of Review is filed, within 11 days after the decision has been mailed to each party's last known address or electronically transmitted to the party. The 11-day period may be extended for good cause shown.
- 3. A request for review or appeal to the Board of Review shall be deemed to be filed for the date it]:
- (a) If the request or appeal is personally served to the Division, on the date the request or appeal is delivered to the Division . [, or, if it]
- (b) If the request or appeal is mailed [,] to the Division by certified mail, on the postmarked date appearing on the envelope in which it was mailed, if the postage was prepaid and the envelope was properly addressed to one of the offices of the Division.
- (c) If the request or appeal is submitted through an Internet website connected to the computerized system described in section 2 of this act, on the date on which the request or appeal is submitted.
- 4. The time provided for in this section must be computed in the manner provided in NRS 612.495.
 - **Sec. 21.** NRS 612.515 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 612.515 1. An appeal to the Board of Review by any party must be allowed as a matter of right if the Appeal Tribunal's decision reversed or modified the Administrator's determination. In all other cases, further review must be at the discretion of the Board of Review.





- 2. The Board of Review on its own motion may initiate a review of a decision or determination of an Appeal Tribunal within 11 days after the date of mailing or electronic transmission of the decision.
- 3. The Board of Review may affirm, modify or reverse the findings or conclusions of the Appeal Tribunal solely on the basis of evidence previously submitted, or upon the basis of such additional evidence as it may direct to be taken.
- 4. Each party, including the Administrator, must be promptly furnished a copy of the decision and the supporting findings of the Board of Review.
- 5. If a party to whom the Administrator denied benefits prevails in an appeal pursuant to this section, the Administrator shall pay all costs and reasonable attorney's fees incurred by the party in connection with the appeal.

Sec. 22. NRS 612.550 is hereby amended to read as follows:

612.550 1. As used in this section:

- (a) "Average actual duration" means the number of weeks obtained by dividing the number of weeks of benefits paid for weeks of total unemployment in a consecutive 12-month period by the number of first payments made in the same 12-month period.
- (b) "Average annual payroll" for each calendar year means the annual average of total wages paid by an employer subject to contributions for the 3 consecutive calendar years immediately preceding the computation date. The average annual payroll for employers first qualifying as eligible employers must be computed on the total amount of wages paid, subject to contributions, for not less than 10 consecutive quarters and not more than 12 consecutive quarters ending on December 31, immediately preceding the computation date.
- (c) "Beneficiary" means a person who has received a first payment.
- (d) "Computation date" for each calendar year means June 30 of the preceding calendar year.
- (e) "Covered worker" means a person who has worked in employment subject to this chapter.
- (f) "First payment" means the first weekly unemployment insurance benefit paid to a person in the person's benefit year.
- (g) "Reserve balance" means the excess, if any, of total contributions paid by each employer over total benefit charges to that employer's experience rating record.
- (h) "Reserve ratio" means the percentage ratio that the reserve balance bears to the average annual payroll.
- (i) "Total contributions paid" means the total amount of contributions, due on wages paid on or before the computation date,





paid by an employer not later than the last day of the second month immediately following the computation date.

- (j) "Unemployment risk ratio" means the ratio obtained by dividing the number of first payments issued in any consecutive 12-month period by the average monthly number of covered workers in employment as shown on the records of the Division for the same 12-month period.
- The Administrator shall, as of the computation date for each calendar year, classify employers in accordance with their actual payrolls, contributions and benefit experience, and shall determine for each employer the rate of contribution which applies to that employer for each calendar year in order to reflect his or her experience and classification. The contribution rate of an employer may not be reduced below 2.95 percent, unless there have been 12 calendar quarters immediately preceding computation date throughout which the employer has been subject to this chapter and his or her account as an employer could have been charged with benefit payments, except that an employer who has not been subject to the law for a sufficient period to meet this requirement may qualify for a rate less than 2.95 percent if his or her account has been chargeable throughout a lesser period not less than the 10-consecutive-calendar-quarter period ending on the computation date.
- 3. Any employer who qualifies under paragraph (b) of subsection 9 and receives the experience record of a predecessor employer must be assigned the contribution rate of the predecessor.
- 4. Benefits paid to a person up to and including the computation date must be charged against the records, for experience rating, of the person's base-period employers in the same percentage relationship that wages reported by individual employers represent to total wages reported by all base period employers, except that:
- (a) If one of the base period employers has paid 75 percent or more of the wages paid to the person during the person's base period, and except as otherwise provided in NRS 612.551, the benefits, less a proportion equal to the proportion of wages paid during the base period by employers who make reimbursement in lieu of contributions, must be charged to the records for experience rating of that employer. The proportion of benefits paid which is equal to the part of the wages of the claimant for the base period paid by an employer who makes reimbursement must be charged to the record of that employer.
- (b) No benefits paid to a multistate claimant based upon entitlement to benefits in more than one state may be charged to the





experience rating record of any employer when no benefits would have been payable except pursuant to NRS 612.295.

- (c) Except for employers who have been given the right to make reimbursement in lieu of contributions, extended benefits paid to a person must not be charged against the accounts of the person's base-period employers.
- (d) If a person is overpaid any amount as benefits, the amount of the overpayment must not be charged against the accounts of the person's base-period employers.
- 5. The Administrator shall, as of the computation date for each calendar year, compute the reserve ratio for each eligible employer and shall classify those employers on the basis of their individual reserve ratios. The contribution rate assigned to each eligible employer for the calendar year must be determined by the range within which the employer's reserve ratio falls. The Administrator shall, by regulation, prescribe the contribution rate schedule to apply for each calendar year by designating the ranges of reserve ratios to which must be assigned the various contribution rates provided in subsection 6. The lowest contribution rate must be assigned to the designated range of highest reserve ratios and each succeeding higher contribution rate must be assigned to each succeeding designated range of lower reserve ratios, except that, within the limits possible, the differences between reserve ratio ranges must be uniform.
- 6. Each employer eligible for a contribution rate based upon experience and classified in accordance with this section must be assigned a contribution rate by the Administrator for each calendar year according to the following classes:

30	Class 1	0.25 percent
31	Class 2	0.55 percent
32	Class 3	0.85 percent
33	Class 4	
34	Class 5	
35	Class 6	1.75 percent
36	Class 7	2.05 percent
37	Class 8	2.35 percent
38	Class 9	2.65 percent
39	Class 10	
40	Class 11	3.25 percent
41	Class 12	3.55 percent
42	Class 13	
43	Class 14	4.15 percent
44	Class 15	4.45 percent
45	Class 16	4.75 percent





Class 17	5.05 1	percent
Class 18	5.40°	percent

- 7. On September 30 of each year, the Administrator shall determine:
- (a) The highest of the unemployment risk ratios experienced in the 109 consecutive 12-month periods in the 10 years ending on March 31:
- (b) The potential annual number of beneficiaries found by multiplying the highest unemployment risk ratio by the average monthly number of covered workers in employment as shown on the records of the Division for the 12 months ending on March 31;
- (c) The potential annual number of weeks of benefits payable found by multiplying the potential number of beneficiaries by the highest average actual duration experienced in the 109 consecutive 12-month periods in the 10 years ending on September 30; and
- (d) The potential maximum annual benefits payable found by multiplying the potential annual number of weeks of benefits payable by the average payment made to beneficiaries for weeks of total unemployment in the 12 months ending on September 30.
- 8. The Administrator shall issue an individual statement, itemizing benefits charged during the 12-month period ending on the computation date, total benefit charges, total contributions paid, reserve balance and the rate of contributions to apply for that calendar year, for each employer whose account is in active status on the records of the Division on January 1 of each year and whose account is chargeable with benefit payments on the computation date of that year.
- 9. If an employer transfers its trade or business, or a portion thereof, to another employer:
- (a) And there is substantially common ownership, management or control of the employers, the experience record attributable to the transferred trade or business must be transferred to the employer to whom the trade or business is transferred. The rates of both employers must be recalculated, and the recalculated rates become effective on the date of the transfer of the trade or business. If the Administrator determines, following the transfer of the experience record pursuant to this paragraph, that the sole or primary purpose of the transfer of the trade or business was to obtain a reduced liability for contributions, the Administrator shall combine the experience rating records of the employers involved into a single account and assign a single rate to the account.
- (b) And there is no substantially common ownership, management or control of the employers, the experience record of





an employer may be transferred to a successor employer as of the effective date of the change of ownership if:

- (1) The successor employer acquires the entire or a severable and distinct portion of the business, or substantially all of the assets, of the employer;
- (2) The successor employer notifies the Division of the acquisition in writing within 90 days after the date of the acquisition;
- (3) The employer and successor employer submit a joint application to the Administrator requesting the transfer; and
 - (4) The joint application is approved by the Administrator.
- → The joint application must be submitted within 1 year after the date of issuance by the Division of official notice of eligibility to transfer.
- (c) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (a), a transfer of the experience record must not be completed if the Administrator determines that the acquisition was effected solely or primarily to obtain a more favorable contribution rate.
- (d) Any liability to the Division for unpaid contributions, interest or forfeit attributable to the transferred trade or business must be transferred to the successor employer. The percentage of liability transferred must be the same as the percentage of the experience record transferred.
- 10. Whenever an employer has paid no wages in employment for 8 consecutive calendar quarters following the last calendar quarter in which the employer paid wages for employment, the Administrator shall terminate the employer's experience rating account, and the account must not thereafter be used in any rate computation.
- 11. The Administrator may adopt reasonable accounting methods to account for those employers which are in a category for providing reimbursement in lieu of contributions.
- [12. To the extent allowed by federal law, the Administrator may, by regulation, suspend, modify, amend or waive any requirement of this section for the duration of a state of emergency or declaration of disaster proclaimed pursuant to NRS 414.070 and for any additional period of time during which the emergency or disaster directly affects the requirement of this section if:
- (a) The Administrator determines the action is:
- (1) In the best interest of the Division, this State or the general health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this State; or
- 42 (2) Necessary to comply with instructions received from the
 43 Department of Labor; and
 44 (b) The action of the Administrator is approved by the
 - (b) The action of the Administrator is approved by the Governor.]





- **Sec. 23.** NRS 612.551 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 612.551 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 2, 3 and 7, if the Division determines that a claimant has earned 75 percent or more of his or her wages during his or her base period from one employer, it shall notify the employer by mail or electronic transmission of its determination and advise him or her that he or she has a right to protest the charging of benefits to his or her account pursuant to subsection 4 of NRS 612.550.
- 2. Benefits paid pursuant to an elected base period in accordance with NRS 612.344 must not be charged against the record for experience rating of the employer.
- 3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 7, if a claimant leaves his or her last or next to last employer to take other employment and leaves or is discharged by the latter employer, benefits paid to the claimant must not be charged against the record for experience rating of the former employer.
- 4. If the employer provides evidence within 10 working days after the notice required by subsection 1 was mailed or electronically transmitted which satisfies the Administrator that the claimant:
- (a) Left his or her employment voluntarily without good cause or was discharged for misconduct connected with the employment; or
- (b) Was the spouse of an active member of the Armed Forces of the United States and left his or her employment because the spouse was transferred to a different location,
- → the Administrator shall order that the benefits not be charged against the record for experience rating of the employer.
- 5. The employer may appeal from the ruling of the Administrator relating to the cause of the termination of the employment of the claimant in the same manner as appeals may be taken from determinations relating to claims for benefits.
- 6. A determination made pursuant to this section does not constitute a basis for disqualifying a claimant to receive benefits.
- 7. If an employer who is given notice of a claim for benefits pursuant to subsection 1 fails to submit timely to the Division all known relevant facts which may affect the claimant's rights to benefits as required by NRS 612.475, the employer's record for experience rating is not entitled to be relieved of the amount of any benefits paid to the claimant as a result of such failure that were charged against the employer's record pursuant to NRS 612.550 or 612.553.
- [8. To the extent allowed by federal law, the Administrator may, by regulation, suspend, modify, amend or waive any requirement of this section for the duration of a state of emergency





or declaration of disaster proclaimed pursuant to NRS 414.070 and for any additional period of time during which the emergency or disaster directly affects the requirement of this section if:

— (a) The Administrator determines the action is:

(1) In the best interest of the Division, this State or the general health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this State; or

(2) Necessary to comply with instructions received from the Department of Labor; and

(b) The action of the Administrator is approved by the Governor.]

Sec. 24. NRS 612.553 is hereby amended to read as follows:

512.553 1. For the purposes of this section:

- (a) "Indian tribe" includes any entity described in subsection 10 of NRS 612.055.
- (b) "Nonprofit organization" means any entity described in subsection 1 of NRS 612.121.
- (c) "Political subdivision" means any entity described in subsection 9 of NRS 612.055.
- 2. Any nonprofit organization, political subdivision or Indian tribe which is subject to this chapter:
- (a) Shall pay contributions to the Unemployment Compensation Fund in the manner provided in NRS 612.535 to 612.550, inclusive, unless it elects, in accordance with this section, to pay into the Unemployment Compensation Fund, in lieu of contributions, as reimbursement an amount equivalent to the amount of regular unemployment compensation benefits and one-half of the extended benefits paid to claimants that is attributable to wages paid, *not* including any amount of benefits overpaid to a claimant, except that after December 31, 1978, a political subdivision, and after December 21, 2000, an Indian tribe, shall reimburse an amount equal to the regular unemployment compensation benefits and all of the extended benefits \square , not including any amount overpaid to *claimant.* An Indian tribe may elect to become liable for payments by way of reimbursement in lieu of contributions for the tribe as a whole, or for any political subdivision, subsidiary, wholly owned business, or any combination thereof. The amount of benefits payable by each employer who elects to make payments by way of reimbursement in lieu of contributions must be an amount which bears the same ratio to the total benefits paid to a person as the total base-period wages paid to that person by the employer bear to the total base-period wages paid to that person by all of the person's base-period employers. Two or more employers who have become liable for payments by way of reimbursement in lieu of contributions may file a joint application, in accordance with regulations of the Administrator, for the establishment of a group



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account for the purpose of sharing the cost of benefits paid that are attributable to service in the employ of such employers.

- (b) May elect to become liable for payments by way of reimbursement in lieu of contributions for a period of not less than 4 consecutive calendar quarters beginning with the first day of the calendar quarter on which it became subject to this chapter by filing a written notice with the Administrator not later than 30 days immediately following the date of the determination that it is subject to this chapter. The organization remains liable for payments by way of reimbursement in lieu of contributions until it files with the Administrator a written notice terminating its election not later than 30 days before the beginning of the taxable year for which the termination is first effective.
- 3. Any nonprofit organization, political subdivision or Indian tribe which is paying contributions as provided in NRS 612.535 to 612.550, inclusive, may change to a reimbursement-in-lieu-of-contributions basis by filing with the Administrator not later than 30 days before the beginning of any taxable year a written notice of its election to become liable for payments by way of reimbursements in lieu of contributions. The election is not terminable by the organization for that and the next taxable year.
- 4. The Administrator may for a good cause extend the period in which a notice of election or a notice of termination must be filed and may permit an election to be retroactive, but not any earlier than with respect to benefits paid after December 31, 1970, for a nonprofit organization, December 31, 1976, for a political entity, or December 21, 2000, for an Indian tribe.
- 5. The Administrator shall notify each nonprofit organization, political subdivision and Indian tribe of any determination which the Administrator may make of its status as an employer and of the effective date of any election which it makes and of any termination of such election. The Administrator's determination is subject to reconsideration, petitions for hearing and judicial review in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.
- 6. The amount of reimbursement in lieu of contributions due from each employing unit which elects to make reimbursement in lieu of contributions must be determined by the Administrator as soon as practicable after the end of each calendar quarter or at the end of any other period as determined by the Administrator. The Administrator shall bill each employing unit which makes reimbursement in lieu of contributions for an amount determined pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 2. Amounts due under this subsection must be paid not later than 30 days after a bill is mailed to the last known address of the employing unit or electronically transmitted to the employing unit. If payment is not made on or





before the date due and payable, the whole or any part thereafter remaining unpaid bears interest at the rate of one-half percent per month or fraction thereof, from and after the due date until payment is received by the Administrator. The amount of payments due, but not paid, may be collected by the Administrator, together with interest and penalties, if any, in the same manner and subject to the same conditions as contributions due from other employers. The amount due specified in any bill from the Administrator is conclusive and binding on the employing unit, unless not later than 15 days after the bill was mailed to its last known address or electronically transmitted to it, the employing unit files an application for redetermination. A redetermination made under this subsection is subject to petition for hearing and judicial review in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. Payments made by any nonprofit organization, political subdivision or Indian tribe under the provisions of this section must not be deducted, in whole or in part, from the wages of any person employed by that organization.

7. The Administrator shall:

- (a) Suspend the election of an Indian tribe to become liable for payments by way of reimbursement in lieu of contributions if the tribe fails to make payment, together with interest and penalties, if any, within 90 days after the tribe receives a bill from the Administrator.
- (b) Require an Indian tribe whose election to become liable for payments by way of reimbursement in lieu of contributions is suspended pursuant to paragraph (a) to pay contributions as set forth in NRS 612.535 to 612.550, inclusive, for the following taxable year unless the Administrator receives its payment in full before the Administrator computes the contribution rates for that year.
- (c) Reinstate the election of an Indian tribe to become liable for payments by way of reimbursement in lieu of contributions that is suspended pursuant to paragraph (a) if the tribe:
- (1) Has paid all contributions pursuant to NRS 612.535 to 612.550, inclusive, including interest and penalties, for not less than 1 year; and
- (2) Has no unpaid balance owing to the Administrator for any contribution, payment in lieu of contributions, penalty or interest.
- 8. Benefits are payable on the basis of employment to which this section applies, in the same amount, on the same terms and subject to the same conditions as benefits payable on the basis of other employment subject to this chapter.
- 9. In determining contribution rates assigned to employers under this chapter, the payrolls of employing units liable for





payments in lieu of contributions must not be included in computing the contribution rates to be assigned to employers under this chapter. The reimbursement in lieu of contributions paid by or due from such employing units must be included in the total assets of the fund in the same manner as contributions paid by other employers.

- 10. The provisions of NRS 612.550 do not apply to employers who elect reimbursement in lieu of contributions.
- 11. Except as inconsistent with the provisions of this section, the provisions of this chapter and regulations of the Administrator apply to any matter arising pursuant to this section.
- **Sec. 25.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State General Fund to the Employment Security Division of the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation the sum of \$40,000,000 for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a computerized system pursuant to section 2 of this act.
- 2. Any remaining balance of the appropriation made by subsection 1 must not be committed for expenditure after June 30, 2025, by the entity to which the appropriation is made or any entity to which money from the appropriation is granted or otherwise transferred in any manner, and any portion of the appropriated money remaining must not be spent for any purpose after September 19, 2025, by either the entity to which the money was appropriated or the entity to which the money was subsequently granted or transferred, and must be reverted to the State General Fund on or before September 19, 2025.
- **Sec. 26.** 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of NRS 612.550, as amended by section 22 of this act, benefits paid to a person during the second or third calendar quarter of calendar year 2022 must not be charged against the experience rating record of any of the person's base period employers.
- 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of NRS 612.553, as amended by section 24 of this act, in determining the amount of reimbursement in lieu of contributions due from an employer who elects to make payments by way of reimbursement in lieu of contributions pursuant to NRS 612.553, as amended by section 24 of this act, the Administrator of the Employment Security Division of the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation shall reduce by not more than 50 percent the amount of payment by way of reimbursement due that is attributable to benefits paid to a person during the second or third calendar quarter of calendar year 2022.
 - 3. As used in this section:
- (a) "Base period" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 612.025, as amended by section 8 of this act.
 - (b) "Benefits" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 612.035.





- 1 (c) "Calendar quarter" has the meaning ascribed to it in 2 NRS 612.040.
- 3 **Sec. 27.** This act becomes effective upon passage and 4 approval.





