

give reasonable notice to the attorney general of any matter scheduled to come before the commission affecting a public utility's rates or adequacy of services to residential or small business utility consumers. Rules of the commission governing procedures before the commission apply to the attorney general and the attorney general's employees or representatives. The attorney general has the same rights and privileges accorded other intervenors or participants in matters pending before the commission.

Subd. 5. **APPEALS.** The attorney general has an interest sufficient to maintain, intervene as of right in, or otherwise participate in any civil action in the courts of this state for the review or enforcement of any public utilities commission action which affects a public utility's rates or adequacy of service to residential or small business utility consumers.

Subd. 6. **INTERVENTION IN FEDERAL PROCEEDINGS.** The attorney general shall represent and further the interests of residential and small business utility consumers through participation as an intervenor or interested party in federal proceedings relating to the regulation of: (a) wholesale rates for energy delivered through interstate facilities; or (b) fuel used in generation of electricity or the manufacture of gas. The attorney general may maintain, intervene in, or otherwise participate in civil actions relating to the federal proceedings.

Subd. 7. **ADDITIONAL POWERS.** The power granted by this section is in addition to powers otherwise provided by law to the attorney general.

Approved May 26, 1987

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#### CHAPTER 242—H.F.No. 14

*An act relating to unemployment compensation; limiting benefit charges to fire departments and emergency transportation services; regulating the receipt of benefits; providing that wages for volunteer firefighter or ambulance services not be deducted for benefit calculation purposes; amending Minnesota Statutes 1986, sections 268.06, subdivision 5; and 268.07, subdivision 2.*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1986, section 268.06, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

Subd. 5. **BENEFITS CHARGED AS AND WHEN PAID.** Benefits paid to an individual pursuant to a valid claim shall be charged against the account of the individual's employer as and when paid, except that benefits paid to an individual who earned base period wages for part-time employment shall not be charged to an employer that is liable for payments in lieu of contributions or to the experience rating account of an employer if the employer: (1) provided

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weekly base period part-time employment; (2) continues to provide weekly employment equal to at least 90 percent of the part-time employment provided in the base period, or, for a fire department or firefighting corporation or operator of a life support transportation service, continues to provide employment for a volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance service personnel on the same basis that employment was provided in the base period; and (3) is an interested party because of the individual's loss of other employment. The amount of benefits so chargeable against each base period employer's account shall bear the same ratio to the total benefits paid to an individual as the base period wage credits of the individual earned from such employer bear to the total amount of base period wage credits of the individual earned from all the individual's base period employers.

In making computations under this provision, the amount of wage credits if not a multiple of \$1, shall be computed to the nearest multiple of \$1.

Benefits shall not be charged to an employer that is liable for payments in lieu of contributions or to the experience rating account of an employer for unemployment (1) that is directly caused by a major natural disaster declared by the president pursuant to section 102(2) of the Disaster Relief Act of 1974 (United States Code, title 42, section 5122(2)), if the unemployed individual would have been eligible for disaster unemployment assistance with respect to that unemployment but for the individual's receipt of unemployment insurance benefits, or (2) that is directly caused by a fire, flood, or act of God where 70 percent or more of the employees employed in the affected location become unemployed as a result and the employer substantially reopens its operations in that same area within 360 days of the fire, flood, or act of God. Benefits shall be charged to the employer's account where the unemployment is caused by the willful act of the employer or a person acting on behalf of the employer.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 1986, section 268.07, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT AND DURATION.** If the commissioner finds that an individual has earned 15, or more, credit weeks within the base period of employment in insured work with one or more employers, benefits shall be payable to such individual during the individual's benefit year as follows:

(1) Weekly benefit amount shall be equal to 60 percent of the first \$85, 40 percent of the next \$85 and 50 percent of the remainder of the average weekly wage of such individual. The amount so computed if not a whole dollar shall be rounded down to the next lower dollar amount. The maximum weekly benefit amount of claims for benefits which establish a benefit year subsequent to July 1, 1979 shall be  $66\frac{2}{3}$  percent of the average weekly wage, except as provided in clause (d).

On or before June 30 of each year the commissioner shall determine the average weekly wage paid by employers subject to sections 268.03 to 268.24 in the following manner:

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(a) The sum of the total monthly employment reported for the previous calendar year shall be divided by 12 to determine the average monthly employment.

(b) The sum of the total wages reported for the previous calendar year shall be divided by the average monthly employment to determine the average annual wage.

(c) The average annual wage shall be divided by 52 to determine the average weekly wage.

The maximum weekly benefit amount as so determined computed to the nearest whole dollar shall apply to claims for benefits which establish a benefit year which begins subsequent to June 30 of each year.

(d) The maximum weekly benefit amount for claims for benefits which establish a benefit year subsequent to June 30, 1982, and prior to July 1, 1983, shall be \$184.

The maximum weekly benefit amount for claims for benefits which establish a benefit year subsequent to June 30, 1983, and prior to July 1, 1984, shall be \$191.

The maximum weekly benefit amount for claims for benefits which establish a benefit year subsequent to June 30, 1984, and prior to July 1, 1985, shall be \$198.

(2) An individual's maximum amount of regular benefits payable in a benefit year shall not exceed the lesser of (a) 26 times the individual's weekly benefit amount or (b) 70 percent of the number of credit weeks earned by such an individual computed to the nearest whole week times the individual's weekly benefit amount.

(3) Each eligible individual who is unemployed in any week shall be paid with respect to such week a benefit in an amount equal to the individual's weekly benefit amount less that part of the individual's earnings, including holiday pay, payable to the individual with respect to such week which is in excess of \$25 or \$200 for earnings from service in the national guard or a United States military reserve unit; provided that no deduction may be made from the weekly benefit amount for earnings from service as a volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance service personnel. Jury duty pay is not considered as earnings and shall not be deducted from benefits paid. Such benefit, if not a whole dollar amount shall be rounded down to the next lower dollar amount.

(4) The provisions of clauses (1) and (2) shall apply to claims for benefits which establish a benefit year subsequent to June 30, 1983.

Approved May 26, 1987

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