

1 State of Arkansas  
2 91st General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2017  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1731

5 By: Representatives Jett, Cavanaugh  
6 By: Senator B. Johnson  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND LAWS RELEVANT TO UNEMPLOYMENT  
10 BENEFITS; TO PROVIDE AMENDED UNEMPLOYMENT  
11 CALCULATIONS AND BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL  
12 AND CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYEES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

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16 TO PROVIDE AMENDED UNEMPLOYMENT  
17 CALCULATIONS AND BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN  
18 AGRICULTURAL AND CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYEES.  
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 11-10-502(a), concerning the weekly benefit  
24 amount for purposes of unemployment, is amended to read as follows:

25 (a)(1) ~~For~~ Except as provided for under subdivision (a)(2) of this  
26 section, for initial claims filed on or after the first day of the calendar  
27 quarter following July 22, 2015, an insured worker's weekly benefit amount  
28 shall be an amount equal to one-twenty-sixth (1/26) of his or her average  
29 wages for insured work paid during the four (4) quarters of his or her base  
30 period.

31 (2) For an insured agricultural employee or for an insured  
32 construction employee who files an initial claim on or after the first day of  
33 the calendar quarter following the effective date of this act, the weekly  
34 benefit amount shall be an amount equal to one-twenty-sixth (1/26) of his or  
35 her total wages for insured work paid during the one (1) quarter of his or  
36 her base period in which the wages were highest.



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 2 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 11-10-504(a), concerning the maximum  
 3 benefits payable for purposes of unemployment, is amended to read as follows:

4 (a)(1) ~~For~~ Except as provided for under subdivision (a)(2) of this  
 5 section, for initial claims filed on or after the first day of the calendar  
 6 quarter following July 22, 2015, the maximum potential benefits of an insured  
 7 worker in a benefit year shall be the amount equal to the lesser of:

8 ~~(1)(A)~~ Twenty (20) times his or her weekly benefit amount;

9 or

10 ~~(2)(B)~~ One-third (1/3) of his or her wages for insured  
 11 work in his or her base period.

12 (2) For an insured agricultural employee or for an insured  
 13 construction employee who files an initial claim on or after the first day of  
 14 the calendar quarter following the effective date of this act, the maximum  
 15 potential benefits in a benefit year shall be the amount equal to the lesser  
 16 of:

17 (A) Twenty-five (25) times his or her weekly benefit  
 18 amount; or

19 (B) One-third (1/3) of his or her wages for insured work  
 20 in his or her base period.