MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS, SPECIAL SESSION November 19, 1981

The meeting was called to order by CHAIRMAN ROBERT ELLERD on November 19, 1981 at 8:30 a.m., in Room 135 of the Capitol Building, Helena, Montana.

Roll call was taken, present were: CHAIRMAN ROBERT ELLERD, VICE CHAIRMAN MELVIN UNDERDAL, REPRESENTATIVE BOB THOFT, REPRESENTATIVE JAMES SCHULTZ, REPRESENTATIVE KERRY KEYSER, REPRESENTATIVE CARL SEIFERT, REPRESENTATIVE HAROLD BRIGGS, REPRESENTATIVE BEN HANSON, REPRESENTATIVE CARL SMITH, REPRESENTATIVE HAL HARPER, REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT PAVOLICH, REPRESENTATIVE MICHAEL KEEDY, AND REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM MENAHAN. REPRESENTATIVE DAN HARRINGTON AND REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT DOZIER were late and REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT SIVERTSEN and REPRESENTATIVE HELEN O'CONNELL were absent.

Copies of Senate Bills 1,2 and 3 were distributed to all committee members. (EXHIBITS A,B and C).

CHAIRMAN ELLERD announced that the committee would be concerned with SENATE BILLS 1,2 and 3 (EXHIBITS A, B and C), sponsored by REPRESENTATIVE HAL HARPER. CHAIRMAN ELLERD asked the committee members to look the bills over.

REPRESENTATIVE HAL HARPER explained the Federal language regarding SENATE BILL 1. Federal mandate is that the bills have to be passed though they can be delayed. The bills can be taken separately or as a package. He explained that the bills deal with three different areas and summarized them. REPRESENTATIVE HARPER said this is to dampen recession and depression on the economy and it is appropriate that we address such things in these times. He said it hurts to see the benefits being squeezed back because we want to preserve the integrity of our system.

DAVID HUNTER, COMMISSIONER OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY, spoke on the compliance issues mentioned by REPRESENTATIVE HARPER. He said that SENATE BILLS 1 and 2 are clearly compliance issues. The Federal Department of Labor requires that State laws and procedures be in compliance with the Federal statutes. If not, the Secretary of Labor can, at his discretion, rule the State to be out of compliance with the laws. MR. HUNTER explained the rules for employee tax credit when the State is in compliance with the laws and when the State is not in compliance. There is a substantial tax increase for employers if the State is ruled out of compliance.

HAROLD V. KANSIER, STATE ADMINISTRATOR OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE, noted that all three bills reduce the benefits of one fashion over another. They are all part of the Omnibus Reconciliation action.

He elaborated on Senate Bill 1, which deals with trade readjustment in the Federal program to employees laid off from an impacted company affected by foreign trade. Labor approves the requests for TRA benefits. There is a provision for the agency to approve training for those people who meet certain qualifications. They are eligible for unemployment benefits and tuition while in training. There are presently 15 individuals in training; they are not receiving any training funds because there are no funds. MR. KANSIER said the second part of the bill reduces the number of TRA payments——it provides for 52 weeks for a regular claimant and 78 weeks for a claimant in training. TRA benefits are reduced by extended benefits.

DON JUDGE, MONTANA AFL-CIO, said he understands that this legislation is a must. He is concerned withthe lowered benefits and said the change in TRA will impact absolutely no workers in Montana. He expressed his displeasure with this.

CHAIRMAN ELLERD closed the hearing on SENATE BILL 1, and opened the hearing on SENATE BILL 2.

HAROLD KANSIER, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, explained SENATE BILL 2. He said that when taking a claim from a claimant, the question "Do you owe child support?" is asked. If the claimant answers "yes," the information is sent to the field office agency.

Arrangements are made with the claimant to have a part of the unemployment benefits cleared for child support. If not successful in negotiating an arrangement, regular action may be taken to attach the benefit check. The cost from the Department of Labor is borne by the child support agency. There is no funding for the work the Department will be doing.

DON JUDGE said he recognizes this is Federal legislation for Montana to receive Federal backing. He has no objection to the intent of this bill. He urged caution to the committee to watch out for banks coming in for house payments, car payments, etc., to be taken out of those checks.

REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT DOZIER asked MR. KANSIER if there were any penalties to a claimant for not reporting when asked if he owed child support.

MR. KANSIER said there were no penalties as such. Fraud is not handled by the Unemployment Insurance Division. This is a child support matter. Unless State law would require a penalty, there would be no penalty. The responsibility of the Unemployment and Insurance Division is to take the claims and pay the benefits.

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REPRESENTATIVE DAN HARRINGTON asked MR. KANSIER what would happen if a person lied. He asked if that would be grounds for the Department to determine the amount of money he is getting as far as his unemployment is concerned?

MR. KANSIER said he didn't think so but he would have his attorney review it.

REPRESENTATIVE KERRY KEYSER said the staff attorney would know if you fill out a fradulent form. It would assume a violation of state law. He asked if there was a Statute that covers a lie.

MR. KANSIER said it disqualifies people in seeking work. Fradulent action could be brought against them through the county attorney. They would be subject to penalties and could be fined by the courts. The unemployment law requires that you be actively seeking work. If falsified, there could be fraud action by the division.

CHAIRMAN ELLERD asked if that situation was discussed in the Senate hearing.

MR. KANSIER answered "just briefly."

In response to a question by REPRESENTATIVE MICHAEL KEEDY there was a discussion on attempts of the Unemployment Insurance Division to locate those persons in question and bring legal action. Payment of unemployment benefits would not be deterred. There would be arrangements to either divert the check or split the check and instruct the office how to make payment. Child support agencies legally go through the correct actions before the agency will handle it.

REPRESENTATIVE HARPER said if a person owes payments, it seems he could get in either way.

MR. KANSIER said what is intended is---should you pay child support? The question is---do you owe child support?

The claims cannot be delayed. They honor 6 attachments a week on child support. Some are ongoing from the time the attachment is received. They are not retroactive.

REPRESENTATIVE HARPER questioned MR. KANSIER on the attachments.

ANN BRODSKY, STAFF RESEARCHER, said that action can be brought against a person making a fraudulent statement under common law cases, if there is a contingency or if a person is suffering injury.

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It was affirmed that a claim for unemployment is a sworn claim.

There was no discussion of SENATE BILL 2. The hearing on SENATE BILL 2 was closed.

SENATE BILL 3 was explained by DAVID HUNTER, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR. He passed out information to the committee members to explain the program on extended benefits. It eliminates the language in State law referring to the national trigger changes formerly triggered for state benefits. On extended benefits, a claimant draws up to 26 weeks of regular unemployment benefits. Extended benefits are for an additional 13 weeks. The triggering mechanism says we have those benefits in times of high unemployment. This bill removes the language about the national trigger and we are left with a state trigger——if the state unemployment rate is high, the Federal government pays half the extended benefit——the other half is paid out of the State Unemployment Trust Fund.

More literature was passed out to the representatives and Mr. Hunter explained the chart concerning insured unemployment (those drawing benefits) and total unemployment rate. There is a substantial difference between unemployment rate and insured employment rate. He said this bill changes the rate from 4 percent insured employment to 5 percent.

This bill makes it substantially more difficult for the State of Montana to have an extended benefit program and to pay out those benefits.

The cost would be 1.5 more dollars in unemployment benefits to people drawing extended benefits. Compared to the rest of the unemployment program, it is not particularly significant. The State would pay half. The risk in compliance is, if we do not change the law, the Federal law might decide that we would have to pay all the benefits out of the State Trust Fund. It would come directly from Montana employers and state tax.

DON JUDGE recognized that, for the state to qualify for the tax, this legislation must pass but he did not want to pass up the opportunity to say he doesn't like it very much. He said 550,000 workers lost their jobs in October alone when the new budget was to have taken effect. He thinks this is very unfair of the Federal administration as the idea is to help workers and this law makes it more difficult for workers to survive. He said the average payment in Montana is \$108 per week and the average benefit is 14 1/2 weeks. He feels the safety net is being pulled from under people's feet.

REPRESENTATIVE KEEDY asked MR. HUNTER about delayed effective dates.

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MR. HUNTER said they are consistent with delayed effective dates for the Omnibus Reconciliation Act.

REPRESENTATIVE KEEDY asked what was being repealed.

MR. HUNTER said it was the language relating to the national trigger.

CHAIRMAN ELLERD closed the hearing on SENATE BILL 3.

The committee went into executive session at 9:20 a.m.

REPRESENTATIVE BOB THOFT made a motion that SENATE BILL 1 do pass. A second was made by REPRESENTATIVE CARL SMITH.

REPRESENTATIVE HARRINGTON mentioned the serious problems in his area and that he could not vote for these bills.

The motion was passed by voice vote. Those opposed were: REPRESENTATIVE MENAHAN, REPRESENTATIVE PAVLOVICH, REPRESENTATIVE DOZIER, AND REPRESENTATIVE HARRINGTON.

CHAIRMAN ELLERD announced that SENATE BILL 1 will be carried on the floor by REPRESENTATIVE HARPER.

VICE CHAIRMAN MELVIN UNDERDAL made a motion that SENATE BILL 2 do pass. A second was made by REPRESENTATIVE BRIGGS.

REPRESENTATIVE KEEDY said he hated to see the Department of Labor and Industry get requests from different state agencies for more people to work for their department. There is no ability to enforce it or do anything about it other than just report it. He hopes we don't continue to go along this line. He said there doesn't seem to be any teeth in it.

The vote was taken and those opposed were: REPRESENTATIVE MENAHAN, REPRESENTATIVE PAVLOVICH, REPRESENTATIVE DOZIER, REPRESENTATIVE HARRINGTON.

The motion passed and REPRESENTATIVE HARPER will carry SENATE BILL 2 on the floor.

A motion was made by REPRESENTATIVE CARL SEIFERT that SENATE BILL 3 do pass. A second was made by REPRESENTATIVE SMITH.

The motion was passed. Those opposed were: REPRESENTATIVE MENAHAN, REPRESENTATIVE PAVLOVICH, REPRESENTATIVE DOZIER, REPRESENTATIVE KEEDY, REPRESENTATIVE HARRINGTON.

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REPRESENTATIVE HARPER will carry SENATE BILL 3 on the floor.

Executive session was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted.

ROBERT ELLERD, Chairman

Dorothy Ratcliff, Secretary

## ROLL CALL

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

SPECIAL SESSION 1, LEGISLATIVE SESSION, 19 81

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### VISITORS' REGISTER

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# STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

	November 19 51
MR. SPEAKER	
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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "A TRAINING WHEN A CLAIMANT IN ALL SENETITS AND TO LIMIT THE NUMBE READJUSTHENT BUNKTITS IF THE CL MENEFITS."	TIBLE FOR TRADE READJUSTMENT
Respectfully report as follows: That	Senate Bill No. 1
DO PASS	

STATE PUB. CO. Helena, Mont.

ROBERT A. FILERD

...... Chairman.

## STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

			November 19	1981
MR. SPEAK	ER			
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	UNEMPLOYMENT CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT A TRANSMIT A PO	INSURANCE DIVISON TO HOTIPY THE AGENCY AND UNDER DRIIOH OF THE UNDERFORMENT AGENCY; 2	"AN ACT TO AUTHOR SIGH TO INQUIRE COME APPLICABLE CHILD RECEITAIN CIRCUMSTANGEMPLOYMENT INSURANGEND PROVIDING AN IMP	CRIVING SUPPORT NCES TO CE BENEPITS
Respectfully rep	oort as follows: That		Sonato	Bill No. <b>2</b> `
D <del>O-PASS</del>				

ROBERT A. ELLERD

Chairman.

STATE PUB. CO. Helena, Mont.

			November 19	1981
MR. SPĽAKI	er en			
We, your co	ommittee on	LABOR AND EMPLOYM	HENT RELATIONS	
naving had unde	r consideration		Senate Bill	No3
	A BILL FOR AN ACT E REFERENCE TO THE NA FURTHER DEPINE THE UNEMPLOYMENT; ESTAB EXTENDED BENEFIT IN AND 39-51-2504 THRO 39-51-2502 AND 39-5 DATES.*	TIONAL "ON" AND "CALCULATION OF RAT LISHING A NEW STAC DICATOR; AMENDING UGH 39-51-2506, MG	OFF" INDICATOR I TE OP INSURED IE "ON" AND "OFF SECTIONS 39-51- CA: REPEALING SE	," -2501 :CTIONS
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Respectfully rep	ort as follows: That		Senate Bill	No3
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ROBERT A. ELLERD

STATE PUB. CO. Helena, Mont.

LC 0111/01

Approved by Committee on Labor & Employment Relations

BY REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

S. BROWN, H. NELSON,

INTRODUCED BY

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE APPROVED BENEFITS AND TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF WEEKS. DURATION OF TRADE READJUSTMENT BENEFITS IF THE CLAIMANT IS ELIGIBLE FOR TRAINING WHEN A CLAIMANT IS ELIGIBLE FOR TRADE READJUSTMENT EXTENDED BENEFITS."

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

training. (1) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, no otherwise eligible individual may be denied NEM\_SECTIONs Section 1. Approved trade readjustment benefits for any week:

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(a) because he is in training approved under Section 236(a)(1) of the federal Trade Act of 1974;

leaving work to enter such training if the work left is (b) in which he is in such approved training by reason suitable employment; or ņot of

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because of the application to any such week in of provisions in this chapter or any federal unemployment insurance law administered by this agency, to availability for work, active search for work, or refusal to accept work. relating (C training

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skill level than the individual's past adversely affected employment, as defined for purposes of the federal Trade Act of 1974, and for which the wages are not less than 80% of the individual's average weekly wage as determined for the or higher employment" means work of a substantially equal section. purposes of the federal Trade Act of 1974. this of purposes For

read justment allowances. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, if the benefit year of any individual ends within extended benefit period, the remaining balance of extended benefits that such individual would but for this veeks 6 combined extended benefits and trade NEW SECIION. Section 2. Limitations

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section be entitled to receive in that extended benefit period, with respect to weeks of unemployment beginning after the end of the benefit year, shall be reduced (but not 12 13 14 2 16

below zero) by the product of the number of weeks for which the individual received trade readjustment allowances within individual's by the that benefit year, multiplied 19 17

Section 3. Codification instruction. Sections 1 and 2 chapter 51, and the provisions of Title 39, chapter 51, are intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 39, benefit amount for extended benefits. 20

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apply to sections 1 and 2.

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LC 0112/01

Approved by Committee on Labor & Employment Relations

S. BROWN, H. NELSON, INTRODUCED BY

3Y REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DIVISION TO INQUIRE CONCERNING CHILD AGENCY AND UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES TO TRANSMIT A PORTION SUPPORT, TO NOTIFY THE APPLICABLE CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS TO THE ENFORCEMENT "AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE AGENCY; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.\*\* A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED:

IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA: 12

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oŧ unemployment benefits. (1) For purposes of this section, the Section 1. Child support interception following definitions apply: NEW SECTIONS

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> including amounts payable by the division pursuant to an "Unemployment compensation" means any compensation agreement under any federal law providing for compensation, unemployment insurance assistance, or allowances with respect to unemployment. payable under the Montana (a)

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obligations that are being enforced pursuant to a plan described in Section 454 of the Social Security Act which has been approved by the secretary of health and human only U of Title IV of the Social Security "Child support obligations" includes services under Part

LC 0112/01

Act.

(c) "State or local child support enforcement agency" means any agency of a state or political subdivision thereof plan provided for in subsection Ю ţ pursuant operating

If an individual discloses that he owes child support local child support enforcement agency enforcing compensation shall, at the time of filing the claim, disclose whether or not he owes child support obligations. obligations and the individual is determined to be eligible for unemployment compensation, the division shall notify the (2) An individual filing a new claim for unemployment such obligation that the individual has been determined to be eligible for unemployment compensation. 5

unemployment compensation payable to an individual owing (3) The division shall deduct and withhold from any child support obligations:

(a) the amount specified by the individual to the division to be deducted and withheld under this subsection neither subsection (3)(b) nor (3)(c) is applicable; 20

(b) the amount, if any, determined pursuant to an local child support enforcement agency, unless subsection 454(20)(8)(i) of the Social Security Act by the state or under division to the agreement submitted

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(3)(c) is applicable; or

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S. BROWN, H. NELSON, INTRODUCED BY

BY REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR KND INDUSTRY

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO ELIMINATE REFERENCE TO THE NATIONAL MONM AND MOFFM INDICATOR AND FURTHER DEFINE THE CALCULATION OF RATE OF INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT; ESTABLISHING A NEW STATE "ON" AND "OFF" EXTENDED BENEFIT INDICATOR; AMENDING SECTIONS 39-51-2501 AND 39-51-2504 THROUGH 39-51-2506, MCA; REPEALING SECTIONS 39-51-2502 AND 39-51-2503, MCA; AND PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES."

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA: 13 Section 1. Section 39-51-2501, MCA, is amended read 15 M39-51-2501. Definitions. As used in this part, unless context clearly requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

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"Extended benefit period" means a period which:

begins with the third week after whichever-of--the (e) 20

following-weeks-occurs-first: 7 indicatori-or 22 23 tit a week for which there is a state "on" indicatoria provided that no extended benefit period may begin by

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reason of a state "on" indicator before the 14th week period which following the end of a prior extended benefit was in effect with respect to this state; and

(b) ends with either-of-the-following-weeksy-whichever

occurs-tater:

4++ the third week after the first week for which there is both-a-national-moffm-indicator-and a state moffm

indicator# or

fith the 13th consecutive week of such period.

(2) (a) "Rate of insured unemployment", for purposes of 39-51-2504 and 39-51-2505, means the percentage derived 11

by dividing the average weekly number of individuals filing 12

claims for regular benefits in this state for weeks of

unemployment with respect to the most recent 13\_consecutive-week period, as determined by the department 15 14

on the basis of his reports to the U.S. secretary of labor, 91 by the average monthly employment covered under this chapter 17

for the first 4 of the most recent 6 completed calendar quarters ending before the end of such 13-week period. 18 19

٥f provisions by the (b) Computations required department in subsection (2)(a) shall be made by the

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accordance with regulations prescribed by the U.S. secretary 22

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(3) "Requiar benefits" means benefits payable to an individual under this chapter or under any other state law,

INTRODUCED -2-

including benefits payable to federal civilian employees and to ex-servicemen pursuant to 5 U.S.C. chapter 85, other than extended benefits.

- (4) "Extended benefits" means benefits, including benefits payable to federal civilian employees and to ex-servicemen pursuant to 5 U.S.C. chapter 85, payable to an individual under the provisions of this part for weeks of unemployment in his eligibility period.
- (5) "Eligibility period" of an individual means the period consisting of the weeks in his benefit year which begin in an extended benefit period and, if his benefit year ends within such extended benefit period, any weeks thereafter which begin in such period.
- (6) "Exhaustee" means an individual who, with respect to any week of unemployment in his eligibility period:

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employees and ex-servicemen under 5 U.S.C. chapter 85, in has received, prior to such week, all of the regular benefits that were available to him under this chapter or any other state law, including dependents\* civilian his current benefit year that includes such week; provided, that for the purposes of this subsection, an individual shall be deemed to have received all of the regular benefits to wages that were not a result to federal that were available to him although, as allowances and benefits payable with respect appeal (a) pending

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considered in the original monetary determination in his benefit year, he may subsequently be determined to be

- entitled to added regular benefits;
- the stablish a new benefit year having expired prior to such week, has no or insufficient wages on the basis of which he could establish a new benefit year that would include such

week;

allowances, as the case may be, under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, the Automotive Products Trade Act of 1965, and such other federal laws as are specified in regulations issued by the U.S. secretary of labor; and

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- 14 (d) has not received and is not seeking unemployment
  15 benefits under the unemployment compensation law of Canada,
  16 but if he is seeking such benefits and the appropriate
  17 agency finally determines that he is not entitled to
  18 benefits under such law, he is considered an exhaustee.
- (7) "State law" means the unemployment insurance law of any state approved by the U.S. secretary of labor under section 3304 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954."

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Section 2. Section 39-51-2504, NCA, is amended to

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24 "39-51-2504. State "on" indicator -- when. There is a 25 state "on" indicator for this state for a week if the

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department determines, in accordance with the regulations of the U.S. secretary of labor, that for---the---period consisting-of

(11 \_(a) the\_rate\_of\_iosured\_ungaployment\_equals\_or
sxceeds\_5%\_for\_any such week and the immediately preceding
12 weeks\_\_and the-rate--of--insured--unemployment--inot
seasonally-adjustedj-under-this-chaptera

tit [b] equaled-or-exceeded tha\_insured\_unemployment rate equals or exceeds 120% of the average of such rates for the corresponding 13-week period ending in each of the preceding 2 calendar years; and or

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unemployment for such week is 5% or more but the average of such rates for the corresponding 13-week neriod ending in each of the preceding two ralendar years is less than 120% the insured unemployment rate for such week and the immediately preceding 12 weeks is 6% or more."

Section 3. Section 39-51-2505, MCA, is amended to read:

"39-51-2505. State "off" indicator -- when. There is a state "off" indicator for this state for a week if the department determines, in accordance with the regulations of the U.S. secretary of labor, that.

(11) for the period consisting of such week and the immediately preceding 12 weeks the rate of insured

1 unemployment (not seasonally adjusted) under this chapter+
2 is\_less\_than\_5%i\_or

fit(12] wss-less-then-i20%-of-the average of such rates
for the corresponding 13-week period ending in each of the
preceding 2 calendar yearsf-or is\_less\_then\_120%

+27-- Nos-tess-than-4%.\*

Section 4. Section 39-51-2506, MCA, is amended to

read:

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Whenever an extended indicator, or an extended benefit period is to be terminated extended a state or-o-nationed "on" "off" tor--to indicators, the department shall make an appropriate public and--national benefit period is to become effective in this state of termination of. state "39-51-2506. Beginning and benefit period -- announcement of a result of a result oft--statest as in this state as announcement."

Section 5. Repealer. Sections 39-51-2502 and 39-51-2503, MCA, are repealed.

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Section 6. Effective dates. (1) Section 1 is effective 20 on passage and approval.

(2) Sections 2 and 3 are effective on September 26, 1982.

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