

Palmer
Meloy *House* BILL NO. *332* *Lynch* *Ballinger*
 INTRODUCED BY *Johnson, Lester, Margolis, Kuehl, Kemmis*
Mular *Conroy* *McEwen* *Rendall* *Quilley* *Wolfe*
 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 87-103
Bradley
 TO RAISE THE PERCENTAGE OF THE AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE FROM THE
 PRESENT FIFTY PERCENT TO FIFTY-FIVE PERCENT AND SIXTY
 PERCENT." *Mention* *Brand* *Kuenneken* *Travis*
Suebeck *Russell*

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

Section 1. Section 87-103, R.C.M. 1947, is amended to read as follows:

"87-103. Benefits. (a) Payment of benefits. Benefits are payable from the fund to any individual who is or becomes unemployed and eligible for benefits as is herein prescribed; provided, however, that wages earned for services performed as an employee representative as defined in the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (52 Stat. 1094), or for services performed for an employer, as defined in said act, shall not be included for the purposes of determining eligibility or weekly benefit amount under this act. All benefits shall be paid through public employment offices in the state of Montana, or other agencies designated by the division, in accordance with such rules and regulations as the division may prescribe.

(b) Weekly benefit amount. Any individual whose benefit

1 year begins on or after July 1, 1971, shall receive as his
 2 weekly benefit amount, an amount equal to one twenty-sixth
 3 (1/26) of his total wages for insured work paid during the
 4 calendar quarter of his base period in which his wages were
 5 highest. Such weekly benefit amount, if not a multiple of
 6 one dollar (\$1), shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of
 7 one dollar (\$1).

8 On or before May 31 of each year, the total wages paid
 9 by all employers as reported on contribution reports
 10 submitted on or before such date for the preceding calendar
 11 year shall be divided by the average monthly number of
 12 individuals employed during the same preceding calendar year
 13 as reported on such contribution reports. The amount thus
 14 obtained shall be divided by fifty-two (52) and the average
 15 weekly wage, rounded to the nearest cent, thus determined.
 16 Fifty percent (50%) of the average weekly wage shall
 17 constitute the maximum weekly benefit amount and shall apply
 18 to all maximum weekly benefit amount claims for benefits
 19 filed to establish a benefit year commencing on or after
 20 July 1 of the same year. Such maximum weekly benefit amount
 21 if not a multiple of one dollar (\$1), shall be computed to
 22 the nearest multiple of one dollar (\$1). Beginning on July
 23 1, 1975, the fifty percent (50%) of the average weekly wage
 24 shall be raised to fifty-five percent (55%) and beginning
 25 July 1, 1976, be raised to sixty per cent (60%) of the

HB 332

1 average weekly wage.

2 The minimum weekly benefit amount shall be twelve
3 dollars (\$12).

4 The division shall prepare and publish annually a
5 benefit schedule in accordance with the provisions of this
6 subsection.

7 (c) Qualifying wages. To qualify as an insured worker
8 an individual must have been paid wages for insured work in
9 the quarters of his base period, other than the quarter in
10 which his wages were highest, an amount totaling not less
11 than thirteen (13) times his weekly benefit amount.

12 (d) Wage record. The division shall maintain a record
13 of the wages paid to an individual in accordance with wages
14 earned by him for employment by employers during each
15 quarter.

16 (e) Benefits. All accrued benefits due and payable at
17 the time of death to any deceased claimant shall be paid to
18 the surviving spouse, or if there be no surviving spouse,
19 then to the surviving children, or if there be no surviving
20 children, then to the next of kin, without the necessity of
21 any recipient obtaining letters testamentary or of
22 administration."

-End-

STATE OF MONTANA

REQUEST NO. 107-75

FISCAL NOTE

Form BD-15

In compliance with a written request received Jan. 28, 19 75, there is hereby submitted a Fiscal Note for House Bill 332 pursuant to Chapter 53, Laws of Montana, 1965 - Thirty-Ninth Legislative Assembly.

Background information used in developing this Fiscal Note is available from the Office of Budget and Program Planning, to members of the Legislature upon request.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

An act to raise the percentage of the average weekly wage from 50% to 55% for FY 76 and 60% for FY 77 in determining maximum weekly benefits under unemployment compensation.

ASSUMPTIONS:

1. Insured unemployment rates will be 5.25% in FY 76 and 4.50% in FY 77.
2. Number of beneficiaries will be 30,700 in FY 76 and 27,100 in FY 77.
3. The average weeks of benefit duration will be 13.75 in FY 76 and 13.50 in FY 77.
4. The proposed law would establish a maximum weekly benefit of \$79 in FY 76 and \$90 in FY 77. Average weekly benefit would be increased by \$1.57 in FY 76 and \$4.11 in FY 77 under the proposed law.
5. Administrative expenditures will be borne by the federal government.

FISCAL IMPACT:

	<u>FY76</u>	<u>FY77</u>
Expenditures from unemployment compensation trust fund under current law	\$24.1 million	\$21.3 million
Expenditures under proposed law	<u>24.8 million</u>	<u>22.8 million</u>
Increase in expenditures	<u>\$.7 million</u>	<u>\$ 1.5 million</u>

Michael Stollings
 BUDGET DIRECTOR
 Office of Budget and Program Planning
 Date: 2/1/75

SECOND READING

MISSING

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-End-

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 332

2 INTRODUCED BY JOHNSON, LESTER, MAGONE, KIMBLE,

3 KEMMIS, MELOY, PALMER, LYNCH, GILLIGAN, MULAR, CONROY,

4 MCKITTRICK, KENDALL, QUILICI, WOLFE, BRADLEY, FEDERICO,

5 MENAHAN, BRAND, HUENNEKENS, TRAVIS, DUSSAULT, LUEBECK

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