

HOUSE BILL NO. 278

1/19 Introduced  
1/19 Referred to Business & Labor  
1/21 Fiscal Note Requested  
1/25 Fiscal Note Received  
1/28 Hearing  
Died in Committee

1 *House* BILL NO. *278*  
 2 INTRODUCED BY *Meyaban Patrick Jursini*  
 3 *Maikel Lynch Keenan*

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF  
 5 WEEKS OF WORK REQUIRED TO QUALIFY A PERSON FOR UNEMPLOYMENT  
 6 BENEFITS; AMENDING SECTION 39-51-2105, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN  
 7 EFFECTIVE DATE AND AN APPLICABILITY DATE."

8  
 9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

10 Section 1. Section 39-51-2105, MCA, is amended to  
 11 read:

12 "39-51-2105. Qualifying wages. (1) To qualify as an  
 13 insured worker an individual must have been paid wages for  
 14 insured work in the quarters of his base period an amount  
 15 totaling not less than 1 1/2 times his base period high  
 16 quarter wages.

17 (2) On and after July 1, 1980, to qualify for  
 18 benefits, an individual must have had at least 20 15 weeks  
 19 of work with an average of \$50 per week in subject  
 20 employment in the base period. To qualify for benefits, the  
 21 total base period wages must be ~~\$17000~~ \$750 or more.

22 (3) With respect to weeks of unemployment beginning on  
 23 or after January 1, 1978, wages for insured work shall  
 24 include wages paid for previously uncovered services. For  
 25 the purposes of this subsection, the term "previously

1 uncovered services" means services:

2 (a) which were not employment as defined in  
 3 39-51-204(1)(a) and (1)(b) at any time during the 1-year  
 4 period ending December 31, 1975; and

5 (b) which:  
 6 (i) are agricultural labor, as defined in  
 7 39-51-203(8), or domestic service, as defined in  
 8 39-51-203(9); or

9 (ii) are services performed by an employee of this  
 10 state or a political subdivision thereof, as provided in  
 11 39-51-203(5), or by an employee of a nonprofit educational  
 12 institution which is not an institution of higher education,  
 13 as provided in 39-51-203(6), except to the extent that  
 14 assistance under Title II of the Emergency Jobs and  
 15 Unemployment Assistance Act of 1974 was paid on the basis of  
 16 such services."

17 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date --  
 18 applicability. This act is effective July 1, 1985, and  
 19 applies to claims filed on or after July 1, 1985.

-End-



INTRODUCED BILL  
 HB 278

## STATE OF MONTANA

## FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST NO. FNN 147-85Form BD-15

In compliance with a written request received January 21, 19 85, there is hereby submitted a Fiscal Note for H.B. 278 pursuant to Title 5, Chapter 4, Part 2 of the Montana Code Annotated (MCA). 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 Reduce The Number Of Weeks Of Work Required To Qualify A Person For Unemployment Benefits."

ASSUMPTIONS:

There is very little readily available data to support the analysis of this proposal. Therefore, some assumptions are intuitive in nature.

1. It is estimated that 3,500 claimants potentially would be eligible each Fiscal Year under the proposed change. It is known that 75% of all claimants are monetarily eligible and 86% of those actually draw benefits.
2. The average weekly benefit amount (AWBA) is expected to be \$134 and \$142 for FY 1986 and 1987 respectively.
3. It is estimated that the actual average duration for the above mentioned group of claimants will be 7 weeks.
4. Under current law, benefit expenditures are expected to be \$67 M and \$73 M for FY 1986 and 1987 respectively.

FISCAL IMPACT ON UNEMPLOYMENT TRUST FUND (STATE SPECIAL REVENUES)

Benefit Expenditures only.

	<u>FY 1986</u>	<u>FY 1987</u>
Current Law	\$ 67.0 M	\$ 73.0 M
Proposed Law	<u>69.1 M</u>	<u>75.2 M</u>
Net Increased Expenditures:	\$ 2.1 M	\$ 2.2 M

*David L. Hunter*

BUDGET DIRECTOR  
Office of Budget and Program Planning

Date: Jan 25, 1985

**HB 278**