CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 159(L&C)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/18/22 Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): SENATOR COSTELLO

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to unemployment benefits."

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

- 3 * **Section 1.** AS 23.20.340(a) is amended to read:
- 4 (a) An examiner designated by the department shall take the claim. The examiner shall take all evidence pertaining to the eligibility of the claimant, including 5 6 evidence that the claimant submitted the claim from a duplicate, out-of-state, or 7 foreign Internet protocol address, and shall promptly transmit all evidence to the 8 department. The department, or a representative designated by it for the purpose, shall, 9 based on [THE BASIS OF] the evidence submitted and any additional evidence it 10 requires, make an initial determination of [THE CLAIM AS TO] whether the claimant 11 is eligible for benefits under AS 23.20.350 and make an initial determination of the 12 weekly benefit amount and the maximum potential benefit amount. Before making an 13 initial determination of the claimant's eligibility, the department shall verify the 14 claimant's identity and coordinate with the Department of Health and Social 15 Services to review information in the possession of the Department of Health and

1	Social Services that is relevant to the claimant's eligibility.	
2	* Sec. 2. AS 23.20.340(b) is amended to read:	
3	(b) Within one year from the date of the initial determination of the weekly	
4	benefit amount and the maximum potential benefit amount established unde	
5	AS 23.20.350, the department shall reconsider the determination or any subsequen	
6	determination under this chapter and shall issue a redetermination amending th	
7	determination if the department finds that	
8	(1) an error in computation or identity has been made;	
9	(2) additional wages or other facts pertinent to the claimant's insured	
10	status or eligibility for benefits, including evidence that the claimant submitted the	
11	claim from a duplicate, out-of-state, or foreign Internet protocol address, have	
12	become available;	
13	(3) the determination	resulted from a nondisclosure or
14	misrepresentation of a material fact; or	
15	(4) the determination resulted from a misapplication of law by the	
16	department.	
17	* Sec. 3. AS 23.20.350(e) is amended to read:	
18	(e) An individual who is eligible under (d) of this section is entitled to receive	
19	a weekly benefit under this chapter for the number of weeks set out in column (B) of	
20	the table in this subsection opposite the applicable state average unemployment rate	
21	[EARNINGS RATIO OF THE INDIVIDUAL] set out in column (A):	
22	(A)	(B)
23	State Average	Number of Weeks
24	Unemployment Rate [EARNINGS RATIO]	
25	up to 5.00 percent	<u>14</u>
26	<u>5.01-5.50 percent</u>	<u>15</u>
27	5.51-6.00 percent	<u>16</u>
28	<u>6.01-6.50 percent</u>	<u>17</u>
29	<u>6.51-7.00 percent</u>	<u>18</u>
30	7.01-7.50 percent	<u>19</u>
31	7.51-8.00 percent	20

1	<u>8.01-8.50 percent</u>	<u>21</u>
2	8.51-9.00 percent	<u>22</u>
3	9.01-9.50 percent	<u>23</u>
4	9.51-10.00 percent	<u>24</u>
5	10.01-10.50 percent	<u>25</u>
6	10.51 percent and above	<u>26.</u>
7	[LESS THAN 1.50	16
8	1.50-1.99	18
9	2.00-2.49	20
10	2.50-2.99	22
11	3.00-3.49	24
12	3.50 OR MORE	26]
13	* Sec. 4. AS 23.20.350(g) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:	
14	(3) "state average unemployment rate" means the average seasonally	
15	adjusted monthly unemployment rate for the most recently completed quarter of the	
16	calendar year as reported by the department.	

17

* **Sec. 5.** AS 23.20.350(g)(2) is repealed.