SENATE BILL NO. 36-COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, LABOR AND ENERGY

(ON BEHALF OF THE EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION)

PREFILED DECEMBER 20, 2012

Referred to Committee on Commerce, Labor and Energy

SUMMARY-Makes various changes concerning unemployment compensation. (BDR 53-371)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No. Effect on the State: Yes.

EXPLANATION - Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets for its material is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to employment; establishing provisions for the collection of money owed to the Employment Security Division of the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation; establishing a waiting period of 1 week as an additional condition of eligibility for unemployment compensation benefits; revising provisions concerning unemployment compensation fraud; providing for the transfer of an employer's liabilities to the Division upon the transfer of the employer's trade or business; prohibiting the relief of an employer's record for experience rating of charges for benefits under certain circumstances; assigning liability for the payment of money owed to the Division upon the transfer of certain assets; providing penalties; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Under existing law, the Administrator of the Employment Security Division of the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation is authorized to bring actions in district court for the repayment of fraudulently obtained 234567 benefits or to recover amounts owed to the Division by persons who commit unemployment insurance fraud. (NRS 612.365, 612.445) Sections 12-19 and 21 of this bill establish an additional method for the collection of such money. This method is modeled after the method used by the Division of Welfare and 8 Supportive Services of the Department of Health and Human Services to





9 enforce a court order that requires a person to make payments for the support of a 10 child. (NRS 31A.025-31A.190) Section 12 provides that if the Administrator 11 obtains a judgment against a person who has fraudulently obtained benefits or 12 committed unemployment compensation fraud, the Administrator may, in addition 13 to any other manner of executing the judgment provided by law, require 14 each employer of the person to withhold income from the person's wages and pay it 15 to the Division. Sections 13-19 establish provisions for: (1) notifying a person 16 whose income is to be withheld; (2) issuing a notice to withhold income to a 17 person's employer; (3) establishing an employer's duties with respect to the 18 withholding of income; (4) providing penalties for an employer's violation of those 19 duties; and (5) providing an employer with immunity from any civil action for any 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 conduct taken in compliance with a notice to withhold income. Section 23 of this bill revises existing law concerning unemployment insurance fraud by: (1) providing that, in general, the Administrator may issue an initial determination finding that a person has committed such fraud at any time within 4 years after the first day of the benefit year in which the person committed the fraud; and (2) revising other provisions concerning the period during which the person is disqualified from receiving further benefits and the amount of the penalties that may be imposed.

Existing law provides that an unemployed person is not eligible to receive benefits unless the Administrator finds that the person satisfies certain conditions. (NRS 612.375) Section 22 of this bill adds an additional condition for such eligibility: the person must have been unemployed and otherwise eligible for benefits for a waiting period of 1 week within the person's current benefit year, during which no benefits were paid. All but 12 states currently include such a waiting period in their unemployment compensation laws.

31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 Under existing law, an employer's contribution rate is based on the employer's experience rating, which reflects the amount of unemployment compensation benefits that are paid to former employees and charged to the employer's record for experience rating. Existing law also provides for the transfer of some or all of an employer's record for experience rating when the employer transfers its trade or 40 business to another employer. (NRS 612.550) Section 24 of this bill provides that if 41 the transferring employer is liable to the Division for unpaid contributions, interest 42 or forfeits, a percentage of that liability must also be transferred to the other 43 employer. The percentage of liability transferred must be the same as the 44 percentage of the experience record transferred.

45 Under existing law, an employer who receives notice that a former employee 46 has filed a claim for benefits is required to provide the Division with all relevant 47 facts which may affect the claimant's rights to benefits within 11 days after the 48 Division mails the notice of the claim. (NRS 612.475) The amounts of any benefits 49 paid to that claimant are charged to the employer's record for experience rating 50 unless circumstances exist which entitle the record to be relieved of such charges. 51 (NRS 612.551) Section 25 of this bill provides that an employer's record for 52 53 54 55 56 57 experience rating is not entitled to be relieved of charges for the amount of any benefits erroneously paid to a claimant if the employer failed to submit timely all the information as required. This change is required to comply with federal law. (Trade Adjustment Assistance Extension Act of 2011, Pub. L. No. 112-40, § 252, 125 Stat. 402, 421-22)

Under existing law, an employer who, outside the usual course of 58 59 business, sells certain assets and quits business is required to pay to the Division the amount of all contributions, interest or forfeits accrued and unpaid on account of 60 wages paid by the employer up to the date of the sale. If the seller fails to do so 61 within 10 days after the sale, the purchaser of the assets becomes personally liable 62 for the payment of those amounts. (NRS 612.695) Section 26 of this bill extends





63 those provisions to apply in cases of the transfer of the assets of a business by 64 means other than a sale.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 612 of NRS is hereby amended by adding 2 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 19, inclusive, of this 3 act.

- 4 Sec. 2. (Deleted by amendment.)
- Sec. 3. (Deleted by amendment.) 5
- 6 Sec. 4. (Deleted by amendment.)
- Sec. 5. (Deleted by amendment.) 7
- Sec. 6. 8 (Deleted by amendment.)
- Sec. 7. (Deleted by amendment.) 9
- Sec. 8. (Deleted by amendment.) 10
- Sec. 9. (Deleted by amendment.) 11
- 12 Sec. 10. (Deleted by amendment.)
- Sec. 11. (Deleted by amendment.) 13
- Sec. 12. If the Administrator obtains a judgment against a 14
- 15 person for:

16 1. The repayment of benefits obtained due to the person's 17 fraud, misrepresentation or willful nondisclosure pursuant to NRS 612.365; or 18

2. The recovery of amounts owed to the Division for 19 committing unemployment insurance fraud in violation of 20 21 NRS 612.445,

+ the Administrator may, in addition to any other manner 22 of executing the judgment provided by law, require each employer 23 of the person to withhold income from the person's wages and pay 24 it over to the Division in accordance with the provisions of 25 sections 12 to 19, inclusive of this act. 26

Sec. 13. The Administrator shall provide to a person who is 27 28 subject to the withholding of income pursuant to section 12 of this act a notice sent by first-class mail to the person's last known 29 30 address: 31

1. That his or her income is being withheld;

32 2. That a notice to withhold income applies to any current or 33 subsequent employer;

That a notice to withhold income has been mailed to his or 34 *3*. 35 *her employer;*

Of the information provided to his or her employer 36 4. pursuant to section 14 of this act; 37

38 That he or she may contest the withholding; and 5.





6. Of the grounds and procedures for contesting the 1 2 withholding.

3 Sec. 14. 1. The Administrator shall mail, by first-class mail, 4 a notice to withhold income pursuant to section 12 of this act to each employer of the person who is subject to the withholding. 5

6 If an employer does not begin to withhold income from the person in accordance with section 15 of this act after receiving the 7 notice to withhold income that was mailed pursuant to subsection 8 9 1, the Administrator shall, by certified mail, return receipt 10 requested, mail to the employer another notice to withhold income.

3. A notice to withhold income pursuant to section 12 of this 11 12 act may be issued electronically and must: 13

(a) Contain the social security number of the person;

14 (b) Specify the total amount to be withheld from the income of 15 the person, including any interest, penalties or assessments 16 accrued pursuant to the provisions of this chapter;

17 (c) Describe the limitation for withholding income prescribed 18 *in NRS 31.295:*

19 (d) Describe the prohibition against terminating the employment of a person because of withholding and the penalties 20 for wrongfully refusing to withhold in accordance with the notice 21 22 to withhold income; and

(e) Explain the duties of an employer upon the receipt of the 23 24 notice to withhold income.

25 Sec. 15. An employer who receives a notice to withhold income pursuant to section 12 of this act shall: 26

Withhold the amount stated in the notice from the income 27 1. due to the person beginning with the first pay period that occurs 28 29 within 14 days after the date the notice was mailed to the employer 30 and continuing until:

(a) The Administrator notifies the employer to discontinue the 31 32 withholding; or

33 (b) The full amount required to be paid to the Administrator has been paid, as indicated by a written statement to the employer 34 35 from the Administrator;

36 2. Calculate the amount of income to be withheld from a 37 person's wages during each pay period in accordance with the provisions of NRS 31.295 and subject to the limitation on 38 withholding prescribed in that section. For the purposes of this 39 subsection, a withholding of income shall be deemed a 40 41 garnishment of earnings.

42 3. Deliver the money withheld to the Administrator within 7 43 days after the date of each payment of the regularly scheduled 44 payroll of the employer; and





1 4. Notify the Administrator when the person subject to 2 withholding terminates his or her employment and provide the last 3 known address of the person and the name of any new employer of 4 the person, if known.

5 Sec. 16. 1. A notice to withhold income pursuant to section 6 12 of this act is binding upon any employer of the person to whom 7 it is mailed. To reimburse the employer for his or her costs in 8 making the withholding, the employer may deduct \$3 from the 9 amount paid to the person each time the employer makes a 10 withholding.

Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, if an 11 2. employer receives notices to withhold income pursuant to section 12 12 of this act for more than one employee, the employer may 13 14 consolidate the amounts of money that are payable to the 15 Administrator and pay those amounts with one check, but the 16 employer shall attach to each check a statement identifying by 17 name and social security number each person for whom payment 18 is made and the amount transmitted for that person.

19 3. If the provisions of NRS 353.1467 apply, the employer 20 shall make payment to the Administrator by any method of 21 electronic transfer of money allowed by the Administrator. If an 22 employer makes such payment by electronic transfer of money, the 23 employer shall transmit separately the name and appropriate 24 identification number, if any, of each person for whom payment is 25 made and the amount transmitted for that person.

4. As used in this section, "electronic transfer of money" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 353.1467.

Sec. 17. 1. It is unlawful for an employer to use the 28 29 withholding of income to collect an obligation to pay money to the 30 Administrator as a basis for refusing to hire a potential employee, 31 discharging an employee or taking disciplinary action against an 32 employee. Any employer who violates this section shall hire or reinstate any such employee with no loss of pay or benefits, is 33 liable for any amounts not withheld and shall be fined \$1,000. If 34 an employee prevails in an action based on this section, the 35 employer is liable, in an amount not less than \$2,500, for payment 36 of the employee's costs and attorney's fees incurred in that action. 37

38 If an employer wrongfully refuses to withhold income as 2. 39 required pursuant to sections 12 to 19, inclusive, of this act or knowingly misrepresents the income of an employee, the employer 40 shall pay the amount the employer refused to withhold to the 41 42 Administrator and may be ordered to pay punitive damages to the 43 Administrator in an amount not to exceed \$1,000 for each pay 44 period the employer failed to withhold income as required or 45 knowingly misrepresented the income of the employee.





1 Sec. 18. 1. If an employer wrongfully refuses to withhold 2 income as required pursuant to sections 12 to 19, inclusive, of this 3 act, after receiving a notice to withhold income that was sent by certified mail pursuant to section 14 of this act, or knowingly 4 5 misrepresents the income of an employee, the Administrator may 6 apply for and the court may issue an order directing the employer 7 to appear and show cause why he or she should not be subject to the penalties prescribed in subsection 2 of section 17 of this act. 8 9 At the hearing on the order to show cause, the court, upon 10 a finding that the employer wrongfully refused to withhold income as required or knowingly misrepresented an employee's income: 11 12 (a) May order the employer to comply with the requirements of 13 sections 12 to 19, inclusive, of this act; 14 (b) May order the employer to provide accurate information 15 concerning the employee's income; 16 (c) May fine the employer pursuant to subsection 2 of section 17 17 of this act; and 18 (d) Shall require the employer to pay the amount the employer 19 failed or refused to withhold from the employee's income. Sec. 19. 1. An employer who complies with a notice to 20 21 withhold income pursuant to section 12 of this act that is regular 22 on its face may not be held liable in any civil action for any 23 conduct taken in compliance with the notice. 24 2. Compliance by an employer with a notice to withhold income pursuant to section $1\hat{2}$ of this act is a discharge of the 25 employer's liability to the person as to that portion of the income 26 27 affected. 28 3. If a court issues an order to stay a withholding of income, 29 the Administrator may not be held liable in any civil action to the 30 person who is the subject of the withholding of income for any 31 money withheld before the stay becomes effective. 32 **Sec. 20.** NRS 612.350 is hereby amended to read as follows: 33 612 350 1. [Each] An eligible person who is unemployed and otherwise entitled to receive benefits in any week must be paid for 34 35 that week a benefit in an amount equal to the person's weekly 36 benefit amount, less 75 percent of the remuneration payable to him 37 or her for that week. 38 2. The benefit, if not a multiple of \$1, must be computed to the 39 next lower multiple of \$1. Sec. 21. NRS 612.365 is hereby amended to read as follows: 40 41 Any person who is overpaid any amount as 612.365 1. 42 benefits under this chapter is liable for the amount overpaid unless: 43 (a) The overpayment was not due to fraud, misrepresentation or 44 willful nondisclosure on the part of the recipient; and





1 (b) The overpayment was received without fault on the part of the recipient, and its recovery would be against equity and good 2 3 conscience, as determined by the Administrator.

The amount of the overpayment must be assessed to the 4 2. 5 liable person, and the person must be notified of the basis of 6 the assessment. The notice must specify the amount for which the 7 person is liable. In the absence of fraud, misrepresentation or willful 8 nondisclosure, notice of the assessment must be mailed or 9 personally served not later than 1 year after the close of the benefit 10 year in which the overpayment was made.

At any time within 5 years after the notice of overpayment, 11 3. 12 the Administrator may recover the amount of the overpayment by 13 using the same methods of collection provided in NRS 612.625 to 14 612.645, inclusive, 612.685 and 612.686 for the collection of past 15 due contributions or by deducting the amount of the overpayment 16 from any benefits payable to the liable person under this chapter. If 17 the overpayment is due to fraud, misrepresentation or willful 18 nondisclosure, the Administrator may recover any amounts due in 19 accordance with the provisions of sections 12 to 19, inclusive, of 20 this act.

21 4. The Administrator may waive recovery or adjustment of all 22 or part of the amount of any such overpayment which the 23 Administrator finds to be uncollectible or the recovery or adjustment of which the Administrator finds to be administratively 24 25 impracticable.

26 5. To the extent allowed pursuant to federal law, the 27 Administrator may assess any administrative fee prescribed by an applicable agency of the United States regarding the recovery of 28 29 such overpayments.

30 6. Any person against whom liability is determined under this 31 section may appeal therefrom within 11 days after the date the 32 notice provided for in this section was mailed to, or served upon, the person. An appeal must be made and conducted in the manner 33 provided in this chapter for the appeals from determinations of 34 benefit status. The 11-day period provided for in this subsection 35 36 may be extended for good cause shown. 37

Sec. 22. NRS 612.375 is hereby amended to read as follows:

612.375 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2 of 38 39 NRS 612.3774, an unemployed person is eligible to receive benefits with respect to any week only if the Administrator finds that: 40

41 (a) The person has registered for work at, and thereafter has continued to report at, an office of the Division in such a manner as 42 43 the Administrator prescribes, except that the Administrator may by 44 regulation waive or alter either or both of the requirements of this 45 paragraph for persons attached to regular jobs and in other types of





cases or situations with respect to which the Administrator finds that
 compliance with those requirements would be oppressive or
 inconsistent with the purposes of this chapter.

4 (b) The person has made a claim for benefits in accordance with 5 the provisions of NRS 612.450 and 612.455.

6 (c) The person is able to work, and is available for work, but no 7 claimant may be considered ineligible with respect to any week of unemployment for failure to comply with the provisions of this 8 9 paragraph if the failure is because of an illness or disability which 10 occurs during an uninterrupted period of unemployment with 11 respect to which benefits are claimed and no work has been offered 12 the claimant which would have been suitable before the beginning 13 of the illness and disability. No otherwise eligible person may be 14 denied benefits for any week in which the person is engaged in 15 training approved pursuant to 19 U.S.C. § 2296 or by the 16 Administrator by reason of any provisions of this chapter relating to 17 availability for work or failure to apply for, or a refusal to accept, 18 suitable work.

19 (d) The person has within his or her base period been paid 20 wages from employers:

(1) Equal to or exceeding 1 1/2 times the person's total
wages for employment by employers during the quarter of the
person's base period in which the person's total wages were highest;
or

25 (2) In each of at least three of the four quarters in the 26 person's base period.

(e) The person has been unemployed and otherwise eligible for
benefits for a waiting period of 1 week, within the person's current
benefit year, during which no benefits were paid. For the purposes
of this paragraph, a person is unemployed in any week during
which the amount of any wages earned by the person is less than
the person's weekly benefit amount.

→ [If a person fails to qualify for a weekly benefit amount of one 33 twenty-fifth of the person's high-quarter wages but can qualify for a 34 35 weekly benefit amount of \$1 less than one twenty-fifth of his or her high-quarter wages, the person's weekly benefit amount must be \$1 36 37 less than one twenty-fifth of his or her high-quarter wages.] No person may receive benefits in a benefit year unless, after the 38 beginning of the next preceding benefit year during which the 39 person received benefits, he or she performed service, whether or 40 41 not in "employment" as defined in this chapter and earned 42 remuneration for that service in an amount equal to not less than 3 43 times his or her basic weekly benefit amount as determined for the 44 next preceding benefit year.





1 2. In addition to fulfilling the requirements set forth in 2 subsection 1, an unemployed person who has been determined to be 3 likely to exhaust his or her regular benefits and to need services to 4 assist in his or her reemployment, pursuant to the system of profiling established by the Administrator pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 5 6 503, is eligible to receive benefits with respect to any week only if 7 the person participates in those services to assist in his or her 8 reemployment, unless the Administrator determines that:

9 (a) The unemployed person has completed his or her 10 participation in those services; or

11 (b) There is a justifiable cause for the person's failure to 12 participate in those services.

13 3. For any week in which a claimant receives any pension or 14 other payment for retirement, including a governmental or private 15 pension, annuity or other, similar periodic payment, except as 16 otherwise provided in subsection 4, the amount payable to the 17 claimant under a plan maintained by a base-period employer or an 18 employer whose account is chargeable with benefit payments must:

19 (a) Not be reduced by the amount of the pension or other 20 payment if the claimant made any contribution to the pension or 21 retirement plan; or

(b) Be reduced by the entire proportionate weekly amount of the
 pension or other payment if the employer contributed the entire
 amount to the pension or retirement plan.

25 The amount of the weekly benefit payable to a claimant 4. must not be reduced by the pension offset in subsection 3 if the 26 27 services performed by the claimant during the base period, or the 28 compensation the claimant received for those services, from that 29 employer did not affect the claimant's eligibility for, or increase the 30 amount of, the pension or other payment, except for a pension paid 31 pursuant to the Social Security Act or Railroad Retirement Act of 32 1974, or the corresponding provisions of prior law, which is not 33 eligible for the exclusion provided in this subsection and is subject 34 to the offset provisions of subsection 3.

5. As used in this section, "regular benefits" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 612.377.

Sec. 23. NRS 612.445 is hereby amended to read as follows:

1. A person shall not make a false statement or 38 612.445 39 representation, knowing it to be false, or knowingly fail to disclose a material fact in order to obtain or increase any benefit or other 40 41 payment under this chapter, including, without limitation, by failing to properly report earnings or by filing a claim for benefits using the 42 43 social security number, name or other personal identifying 44 information of another person. A person who violates the provisions 45 of this subsection commits unemployment insurance fraud.





1 2. When the Administrator finds that a person has committed 2 unemployment insurance fraud pursuant to subsection 1, the person shall repay to the Administrator for deposit in the Fund a sum equal 3 to all of the benefits received by or paid to the person for each week 4 5 with respect to which the false statement or representation was made 6 or to which the person failed to disclose a material fact in addition to 7 any interest, penalties and costs related to that sum. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3 of NRS 612.480, the 8 9 Administrator may make an initial determination finding that a person has committed unemployment insurance fraud pursuant to 10 subsection 1 at any time within 4 years after the first day of the 11 benefit year in which the person committed the unemployment 12 13 insurance fraud.

14 3. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection and 15 subsection 8, the person is disqualified from receiving 16 unemployment compensation benefits under this chapter:

17 (a) For a period beginning with the [first week claimed in 18 violation of] week in which the Administrator issues a finding that 19 the person has committed unemployment insurance fraud 20 pursuant to subsection 1 and ending not more than 52 consecutive 21 weeks after the week in which it is determined that a claim was filed 22 in violation of subsection 1; or

(b) Until the sum described in subsection 2, in addition to any
 interest, penalties or costs related to that sum, is repaid to the
 Administrator,

26 \rightarrow whichever is longer. The Administrator shall fix the period of 27 disqualification according to the circumstances in each case.

4. It is a violation of subsection 1 for a person to file a claim,
or to cause or allow a claim to be filed on his or her behalf, if:

(a) The person is incarcerated in the state prison or any county
 or city jail or detention facility or other correctional facility in this
 State; and

(b) The claim does not expressly disclose his or herincarceration.

5. A person who obtains benefits of \$650 or more in violation of subsection 1 shall be punished in the same manner as theft pursuant to subsection 3 or 4 of NRS 205.0835.

6. In addition to the repayment of benefits required pursuant to
subsection 2, [if the amount of benefits which must be repaid is
greater than \$1,000,] the Administrator [may]:

41 (a) Shall impose a penalty equal to 15 percent of the total 42 amount of benefits received by the person in violation of 43 subsection 1. Money recovered by the Administrator pursuant to 44 this paragraph must be deposited in the Unemployment Trust 45 Fund in accordance with the provisions of NRS 612.590.





(b) May impose a penalty equal to not more than:

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2 [(a)] (1) If the amount of such benefits is greater than \$25 but
3 not greater than \$1,000, 5 percent;

4 (2) If the amount of such benefits is greater than \$1,000 but 5 not greater than \$2,500, [25] 10 percent; or

6 **(b)** (3) If the amount of such benefits is greater than \$2,500, 7 **(50)** 35 percent,

of the total amount of benefits received by the person in violation
of subsection 1 or any other provision of this chapter. Money
recovered by the Administrator pursuant to this paragraph must
be deposited in the Employment Security Fund in accordance with
the provisions of NRS 612.615.

7. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 8, a person may
not pay benefits as required pursuant to subsection 2 by using
benefits which would otherwise be due and payable to the person if
he or she was not disqualified.

17 8. The Administrator may waive the period of disqualification 18 prescribed in subsection 3 for good cause shown or if the person adheres to a repayment schedule authorized by the Administrator 19 that is designed to fully repay benefits received from an improper 20 21 claim, in addition to any related interest, penalties and costs, within 22 18 months. If the Administrator waives the period of disqualification pursuant to this subsection, the person may repay 23 24 benefits as required pursuant to subsection 2 by using any benefits 25 which are due and payable to the person, except that benefits which 26 are due and payable to the person may not be used to repay any 27 related interest, penalties and costs.

9. The Administrator may recover any money required to be paid pursuant to this section in accordance with the provisions of NRS 612.365 and may collect interest on any such money in accordance with the provisions of NRS 612.620.

Sec. 23.5. NRS 612.475 is hereby amended to read as follows:

612.475 1. The last employing unit of any unemployed claimant and the next to last employing unit of an unemployed claimant who has not earned remuneration with his or her last covered employer equal to or exceeding his or her weekly benefit amount in each of 16 weeks must be notified of any new claim or additional claim filed by the unemployed claimant following his or her separation.

40 2. The notice of the filing of a claim must contain the 41 claimant's name and social security number, the reason for 42 separation from the employing unit affected as given by the 43 claimant, the date of separation and such other information as is 44 deemed proper.





1 3. Upon receipt of a notice of the filing of a claim, the 2 employing unit shall, within 11 days after the date of the mailing of 3 the notice, submit to the Division all *known* relevant facts which 4 may affect the claimant's rights to benefits.

5 4. Any employing unit that receives a notice of the filing of a 6 claim may protest payment of benefits to the unemployed claimant 7 if the protest is filed within 11 days after the notice is filed.

8 5. Any employing unit which has filed a protest in accordance 9 with the provisions of this section must be notified in writing of the 10 determination arrived at by the Administrator or the Administrator's 11 Deputy, and the notice must contain a statement setting forth the 12 right of appeal.

6. As used in this section:

14 (a) "Additional claim" means a claim filed during the benefit 15 year when a break of 1 week or more has occurred in the series of 16 claims with intervening employment.

17 (b) "New claim" means an application for a determination of 18 eligibility and benefits, benefit amount and duration of benefits 19 which certifies to the beginning date of a first period of 20 unemployment in a benefit year or the continuance of a period of 21 unemployment into a new benefit year.

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Sec. 24. NRS 612.550 is hereby amended to read as follows:

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612.550 1. As used in this section:

(a) "Average actual duration" means the number of weeks
obtained by dividing the number of weeks of benefits paid for weeks
of total unemployment in a consecutive 12-month period by the
number of first payments made in the same 12-month period.

(b) "Average annual payroll" for each calendar year means the 28 29 annual average of total wages paid by an employer subject to contributions for the 3 consecutive calendar years immediately 30 31 preceding the computation date. The average annual payroll for 32 employers first qualifying as eligible employers must be computed on the total amount of wages paid, subject to contributions, for not 33 less than 10 consecutive quarters and not more than 12 consecutive 34 35 quarters ending on December 31, immediately preceding the 36 computation date.

37 (c) "Beneficiary" means a person who has received a first
 38 payment.

39 (d) "Computation date" for each calendar year means June 30 of 40 the preceding calendar year.

41 (e) "Covered worker" means a person who has worked in 42 employment subject to this chapter.

43 (f) "First payment" means the first weekly unemployment 44 insurance benefit paid to a person in the person's benefit year.





1 (g) "Reserve balance" means the excess, if any, of total 2 contributions paid by each employer over total benefit charges to 3 that employer's experience rating record.

4 (h) "Reserve ratio" means the percentage ratio that the reserve 5 balance bears to the average annual payroll.

6 (i) "Total contributions paid" means the total amount of 7 contributions, due on wages paid on or before the computation date, 8 paid by an employer not later than the last day of the second month 9 immediately following the computation date.

10 (j) "Unemployment risk ratio" means the ratio obtained by 11 dividing the number of first payments issued in any consecutive 12-12 month period by the average monthly number of covered workers in 13 employment as shown on the records of the Division for the same 12-month period.

15 The Administrator shall, as of the computation date for each 2. calendar year, classify employers in accordance with their actual 16 17 payrolls, contributions and benefit experience, and shall determine 18 for each employer the rate of contribution which applies to that 19 employer for each calendar year in order to reflect his or her experience and classification. The contribution rate of an employer 20 21 may not be reduced below 2.95 percent, unless there have been 12 22 quarters immediately preceding consecutive calendar the computation date throughout which the employer has been subject 23 to this chapter and his or her account as an employer could have 24 25 been charged with benefit payments, except that an employer who has not been subject to the law for a sufficient period to meet this 26 requirement may qualify for a rate less than 2.95 percent if his or 27 28 her account has been chargeable throughout a lesser period not less 29 than the 10-consecutive-calendar-quarter period ending on the 30 computation date.

31 3. Any employer who qualifies under paragraph (b) of 32 subsection 9 and receives the experience record of a predecessor 33 employer must be assigned the contribution rate of the predecessor.

4. Benefits paid to a person up to and including the computation date must be charged against the records, for experience rating, of the person's base-period employers in the same percentage relationship that wages reported by individual employers represent to total wages reported by all base period employers, except that:

(a) If one of the base period employers has paid 75 percent or
more of the wages paid to the person during the person's base
period, and except as otherwise provided in NRS 612.551, the
benefits, less a proportion equal to the proportion of wages paid
during the base period by employers who make reimbursement in
lieu of contributions, must be charged to the records for experience





rating of that employer. The proportion of benefits paid which is
equal to the part of the wages of the claimant for the base period
paid by an employer who makes reimbursement must be charged to
the record of that employer.

5 (b) No benefits paid to a multistate claimant based upon 6 entitlement to benefits in more than one state may be charged to the 7 experience rating record of any employer when no benefits would 8 have been payable except pursuant to NRS 612.295.

9 (c) Except for employers who have been given the right to make 10 reimbursement in lieu of contributions, extended benefits paid to a 11 person must not be charged against the accounts of the person's 12 base-period employers.

The Administrator shall, as of the computation date for each 13 5. 14 calendar year, compute the reserve ratio for each eligible employer and shall classify those employers on the basis of their individual 15 16 reserve ratios. The contribution rate assigned to each eligible employer for the calendar year must be determined by the range 17 within which the employer's reserve ratio falls. The Administrator 18 shall, by regulation, prescribe the contribution rate schedule to apply 19 for each calendar year by designating the ranges of reserve ratios to 20 which must be assigned the various contribution rates provided in 21 22 subsection 6. The lowest contribution rate must be assigned to the designated range of highest reserve ratios and each succeeding 23 higher contribution rate must be assigned to each succeeding 24 designated range of lower reserve ratios, except that, within the 25 limits possible, the differences between reserve ratio ranges must be 26 27 uniform.

6. Each employer eligible for a contribution rate based upon experience and classified in accordance with this section must be assigned a contribution rate by the Administrator for each calendar year according to the following classes:

33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45





 1
 Class 14
 4.15 percent

 2
 Class 15
 4.45 percent

 3
 Class 16
 4.75 percent

 4
 Class 17
 5.05 percent

 5
 Class 18
 5.40 percent

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7. On September 30 of each year, the Administrator shall determine:

9 (a) The highest of the unemployment risk ratios experienced in 10 the 109 consecutive 12-month periods in the 10 years ending on 11 March 31;

12 (b) The potential annual number of beneficiaries found by 13 multiplying the highest unemployment risk ratio by the average 14 monthly number of covered workers in employment as shown on 15 the records of the Division for the 12 months ending on March 31;

16 (c) The potential annual number of weeks of benefits payable 17 found by multiplying the potential number of beneficiaries by the 18 highest average actual duration experienced in the 109 consecutive 12-month periods in the 10 years ending on September 30; and

(d) The potential maximum annual benefits payable found by
multiplying the potential annual number of weeks of benefits
payable by the average payment made to beneficiaries for weeks of
total unemployment in the 12 months ending on September 30.

The Administrator shall issue an individual statement, 24 8. itemizing benefits charged during the 12-month period ending on 25 the computation date, total benefit charges, total contributions paid, 26 reserve balance and the rate of contributions to apply for that 27 calendar year, for each employer whose account is in active status 28 29 on the records of the Division on January 1 of each year and whose 30 account is chargeable with benefit payments on the computation 31 date of that year.

9. If an employer transfers its trade or business, or a portionthereof, to another employer:

34 (a) And there is substantially common ownership, management 35 or control of the employers, the experience record attributable to the transferred trade or business must be transferred to the employer to 36 whom the trade or business is transferred. The rates of both 37 employers must be recalculated, and the recalculated rates become 38 39 effective on the date of the transfer of the trade or business. If the Administrator determines, following the transfer of the experience 40 41 record pursuant to this paragraph, that the sole or primary purpose of the transfer of the trade or business was to obtain a reduced 42 liability for contributions, the Administrator shall combine the 43 44 experience rating records of the employers involved into a single 45 account and assign a single rate to the account.





1 (b) And there is no substantially common ownership, 2 management or control of the employers, the experience record of an employer may be transferred to a successor employer as of the 3 4 effective date of the change of ownership if:

5 (1) The successor employer acquires the entire or a severable 6 and distinct portion of the business, or substantially all of the assets, 7 of the employer;

8 (2) The successor employer notifies the Division of the acquisition in writing within 90 days after the date of the 9 10 acquisition;

11 (3) The employer and successor employer submit a joint 12 application to the Administrator requesting the transfer; and 13

(4) The joint application is approved by the Administrator.

14 → The joint application must be submitted within 1 year after the 15 date of issuance by the Division of official notice of eligibility to 16 transfer.

17 (c) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (a), a transfer of 18 the experience record must not be completed if the Administrator 19 determines that the acquisition was effected solely or primarily to 20 obtain a more favorable contribution rate.

21 (d) Any liability to the Division for unpaid contributions, 22 interest or forfeit attributable to the transferred trade or business 23 must be transferred to the successor employer. The percentage of liability transferred must be the same as the percentage of the 24 25 experience record transferred.

10. Whenever an employer has paid no wages in employment 26 27 for 8 consecutive calendar quarters following the last calendar quarter in which the employer paid wages for employment, the 28 29 Administrator shall terminate the employer's experience rating 30 account, and the account must not thereafter be used in any rate 31 computation.

The Administrator may adopt reasonable accounting 32 11. methods to account for those employers which are in a category for 33 providing reimbursement in lieu of contributions. 34

Sec. 25. NRS 612.551 is hereby amended to read as follows:

36 612.551 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 2, 337 and $\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$, if the Division determines that a claimant has earned 75 percent or more of his or her wages during his or her base period 38 from one employer, it shall notify the employer of its determination 39 and advise him or her that he or she has a right to protest the 40 41 charging of benefits to his or her account pursuant to subsection 4 of 42 NRS 612.550.

43 Benefits paid pursuant to an elected base period in 2. 44 accordance with NRS 612.344 must not be charged against the 45 record for experience rating of the employer.





1 3. **[Iff]** *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 7, if* a 2 claimant leaves his or her last or next to last employer to take other 3 employment and leaves or is discharged by the latter employer, 4 benefits paid to the claimant must not be charged against the record 5 for experience rating of the former employer.

6 4. If the employer provides evidence within 10 working days 7 after the notice required by subsection 1 was mailed which satisfies 8 the Administrator that the claimant:

9 (a) Left his or her employment voluntarily without good cause 10 or was discharged for misconduct connected with the employment; 11 or

(b) Was the spouse of an active member of the Armed Forces of
the United States and left his or her employment because the spouse
was transferred to a different location,

15 \rightarrow the Administrator shall order that the benefits not be charged 16 against the record for experience rating of the employer.

17 5. The employer may appeal from the ruling of the 18 Administrator relating to the cause of the termination of the 19 employment of the claimant in the same manner as appeals may be 20 taken from determinations relating to claims for benefits.

6. A determination made pursuant to this section does not constitute a basis for disqualifying a claimant to receive benefits.

If an employer who is given notice of a claim for benefits 23 7. 24 pursuant to subsection 1 fails to submit timely to the Division all 25 known relevant facts which may affect the claimant's rights to benefits as required by NRS 612.475, the employer's record for 26 27 experience rating is not entitled to be relieved of the amount of any benefits paid to the claimant as a result of such failure that 28 29 were charged against the employer's record pursuant to NRS 30 612.550 or 612.553.

Sec. 26. NRS 612.615 is hereby amended to read as follows:

612.615 1. There is hereby created the Employment SecurityFund as a special revenue fund.

2. [All] Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (a) of subsection 6 of NRS 612.445, all interest and forfeits collected under NRS 612.618 to 612.675, inclusive, and 612.740 and sections 12 to 19, inclusive, of this act must be paid into the Fund.

38 3. All money which is deposited or paid into the Fund is 39 hereby appropriated and made available to the Administrator or for any other purpose authorized by the Legislature. The money may 40 41 not be expended or made available for expenditure in any manner which would permit its substitution for, or a corresponding 42 reduction in, federal payments which would, in the absence of this 43 44 money, be available to finance expenditures for the administration 45 of the employment security laws of the State of Nevada.





1 4. This section does not prevent this money from being used as 2 a revolving fund to cover expenditures, necessary and proper under 3 the law, for which federal payments have been duly requested but 4 not yet received, subject to the repayment to the Fund of such 5 expenditures when received.

6 5. [The] *Except as otherwise provided in this section*, money 7 in this Fund available to the Administrator must be used by the 8 Administrator for the payment of costs of:

9 (a) Administration which are found not to have been properly 10 and validly chargeable against federal grants received for or in the 11 Unemployment Compensation Administration Fund; or

(b) Any program or the implementation of procedures deemed necessary by the Administrator to ensure the proper payment of benefits and collection of contributions and reimbursements pursuant to this chapter or for any other purpose authorized by the Legislature.

17 6. The Administrator may use money deposited in this Fund 18 from a penalty imposed pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 6 19 of NRS 612.445 for any purpose that furthers the integrity of the 20 system of unemployment compensation established pursuant to 21 this chapter.

Any balances in this Fund do not lapse at any time, but are
 continuously available to the Administrator for expenditure
 consistent with this chapter.

25 [7.] 8. Money in this Fund must not be commingled with other 26 state money, but must be maintained in a separate account on the 27 books of the depositary.

Sec. 27. NRS 612.655 is hereby amended to read as follows:

29 1. Where a payment of contributions, forfeit or 612.655 30 interest has been erroneously collected, an employer may, not later 31 than 3 years after the date on which such payments became due, make application for an adjustment thereof in connection with 32 33 subsequent contributions, forfeit or interest payments or for a refund. All such adjustments or refunds will be made without 34 interest. An adjustment or refund will not be made in any case with 35 36 respect to contributions on wages which have been included in the determination of an eligible claim for benefits, unless it is shown to 37 38 the satisfaction of the Administrator that such determination was 39 due entirely to the fault or mistake of the Division.

2. Refunds of interest and forfeit collected under NRS 612.618
to 612.675, inclusive, and 612.740 *and sections 12 to 19, inclusive, of this act* and paid into the Employment Security Fund established
by NRS 612.615 must be made only from the Employment Security
Fund.





Sec. 28. NRS 612.695 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2 612.695 1. Any employer who, outside the usual course of the employer's business, sells or transfers substantially all or any 3 one of the classes of assets enumerated in subsection 1 of NRS 4 5 612.690 and guits business, shall within 10 days after the sale or transfer file such reports as the Administrator may prescribe and 6 7 pay the contributions, interest or forfeits required by this chapter 8 with respect to wages for employment to the date of the sale H or 9 transfer.

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2. In the case of a sale:

(a) The purchaser shall withhold sufficient of the purchase 11 12 money to cover the amount of all contributions, *interest* and forfeits 13 due and unpaid until such time as the seller produces a receipt from 14 the Administrator showing that the contributions, *interest* and 15 forfeits have been paid or a certificate showing that no contributions 16 , *interest* or forfeits are due.

17 [3.] (b) If the seller fails, within the 10-day period, to produce the receipt or certificate, the purchaser shall pay the sum so withheld 18 19 to the Administrator upon demand.

[4.] (c) If the purchaser fails to withhold purchase money as 20 21 provided in [subsection 2] paragraph (a) and the contributions, 22 interest and forfeits are not paid within the 10 days specified in this 23 section, the purchaser is personally liable for the payment of the 24 contributions, *interest* and forfeits accrued and unpaid on account 25 of the operation of the business by the former owner.

3. In the case of a transfer other than a sale, if the 26 27 contributions, interest and forfeits are not paid within the 10 days specified in this section, the transferee is personally liable for the 28 29 payment of the contributions, interest and forfeits accrued and 30 unpaid on account of the operation of the business by the former 31 owner.

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Sec. 29. (Deleted by amendment.)

The provisions of NRS 612.551, as amended by 33 Sec. 30. section 25 of this act, do not apply to a claim for benefits paid 34 35 before October 21, 2013.

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 - Sec. 31. (Deleted by amendment.)

37 Sec. 32. This section and sections 1, 12 to 19, inclusive, 1. 38 21 to 28, inclusive, and 30 of this act become effective upon passage 39 and approval.

2. Sections 2 to 11, inclusive, and 20 of this act become 40 41 effective:

(a) Upon passage and approval for the purposes of adopting 42 regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative 43 44 tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of those sections; 45 and





1 (b) For all other purposes, on the first day of the quarter after the 2 date on which the Secretary of Labor approves the program of 3 shared work unemployment compensation established pursuant to 4 section 5 of this act as a short-time compensation program.

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3. Sections 29 and 31 of this act become effective:

6 (a) Upon passage and approval for the purposes of adopting 7 regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative 8 tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and

9 (b) For all other purposes, if and only if the amendatory 10 provisions of section 4 of chapter 476, Statutes of Nevada 2011, at 11 page 2891, or substantially similar provisions, are in effect on the 12 first day of the quarter after the date on which the Secretary of 13 Labor approves the program of shared work unemployment 14 compensation established pursuant to section 5 of this act as a short-15 time compensation program.

4. Section 29 of this act expires by limitation on the date on
which the amendatory provisions of section 4 of chapter 476,
Statutes of Nevada 2011, at page 2891, or substantially similar
provisions, expire.



