

MAR 5 2003

COMMERCE, REGULATION & LABOR

HOUSE FILE 447  
BY PETERSEN

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to attachment-to-the-workforce requirements for  
2 unemployment benefits.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HC 447

1 Section 1. Section 96.4, subsection 4, Code 2003, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 4. a. The individual has been paid wages for insured work  
4 during the individual's base period in an amount at least one  
5 and one-quarter times the wages paid to the individual during  
6 that quarter of the individual's base period in which the  
7 individual's wages were highest; provided that the individual  
8 has been paid wages for insured work totaling at least three  
9 and five-tenths percent of the statewide average annual wage  
10 for insured work, computed for the preceding calendar year if  
11 the individual's benefit year begins on or after the first  
12 full week in July and computed for the second preceding  
13 calendar year if the individual's benefit year begins before  
14 the first full week in July, in that calendar quarter in the  
15 individual's base period in which the individual's wages were  
16 highest, and the individual has been paid wages for insured  
17 work totaling at least one-half of the amount of wages  
18 required under this subsection in the calendar quarter of the  
19 base period in which the individual's wages were highest, in a  
20 calendar quarter in the individual's base period other than  
21 the calendar quarter in which the individual's wages were  
22 highest. The calendar quarter wage requirements shall be  
23 rounded to the nearest multiple of ten dollars.

24 b. For any benefit year beginning on or after July 1,  
25 2004, for an individual who does not have sufficient wages in  
26 the base period, as defined in section 96.19, to otherwise  
27 qualify for benefits pursuant to this subsection, the  
28 individual's base period shall be the last four completed  
29 calendar quarters immediately preceding the first day of the  
30 individual's benefit year if such period qualifies the  
31 individual for benefits under this subsection. The director  
32 shall adopt rules for obtaining any additional wage  
33 information needed to calculate the base period under this  
34 paragraph if such information is not available to the  
35 department in a timely manner from regular quarterly reports

1 of wage information.

2 (1) Wages that fall within the extraordinary base period  
3 established under this paragraph "b" are not available for  
4 qualifying for benefits in any subsequent benefit year.

5 (2) For claims filed pursuant to an arrangement under  
6 section 96.20, the base period is that base period applicable  
7 under the unemployment compensation law of the paying state.

8 c. If the individual has drawn benefits in any benefit  
9 year, the individual must during or subsequent to that year,  
10 work in and be paid wages for insured work totaling at least  
11 two hundred fifty dollars, as a condition to receive benefits  
12 in the next benefit year.

13 EXPLANATION

14 This bill provides for an alternate method of calculating  
15 the base period, to determine the monetary attachment-to-the-  
16 workforce eligibility of individuals for unemployment  
17 benefits, in cases where the current method of calculation  
18 makes an individual ineligible for unemployment benefits.

19 Currently, the base period consists of the first four  
20 calendar quarters of the five calendar quarters immediately  
21 preceding the calendar quarter in which the claim for  
22 unemployment benefits is filed. This bill would move the base  
23 period closer, by one quarter, to the benefit claim filing  
24 date so that the base period would consist of the first four  
25 calendar quarters immediately preceding the calendar quarter  
26 in which the claim for unemployment benefits is filed.

27 The bill would apply to individual benefit years beginning  
28 on or after July 1, 2004.

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