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SENATE FILE 213  
BY KREIMAN

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

A BILL FOR

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

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

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SF 213  
BUSINESS & LABOR

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 years effective on or after July 1,  
25 2003, for any individual who does not have sufficient wages in  
26 the base period as defined in section 96.19 to qualify for  
27 benefits pursuant to this section, the individual's base  
28 period shall be the last four completed calendar quarters  
29 immediately preceding the first day of the individual's  
30 benefit year if such period qualifies the individual for  
31 benefits under this section.

32 (1) The director shall establish any rules for obtaining  
33 any additional wage information needed to calculate the base  
34 period under this paragraph "b" if such information is not  
35 available to the department in a timely manner from regular

1 quarterly reports of wage information.

2 (2) Any base period established for an individual under  
3 this paragraph "b" shall be the base period for that  
4 individual to determine benefits under section 96.3.

5 (3) 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.

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EXPLANATION

14 This bill strikes the requirement that for an individual to  
15 be eligible for unemployment, the individual be paid a total  
16 of wages during the individual's base period at least equaling  
17 one and one-quarter times the amount of wages paid in the  
18 highest paid quarter of wages of the individual's base period.  
19 An individual would still be required to work in more than one  
20 calendar quarter and earn sufficient wages to meet a minimum  
21 amount of wages in the high and low quarters of the base  
22 period.

23 The bill also provides for an alternate method of  
24 calculating the base period, to determine the monetary  
25 attachment-to-the-workforce eligibility of individuals for  
26 unemployment benefits, in cases where the current method of  
27 calculation makes an individual ineligible for unemployment  
28 benefits. Currently the base period consists of the first  
29 four calendar quarters of the five calendar quarters  
30 immediately preceding the calendar quarter in which the claim  
31 for unemployment is filed. Effective July 1, 2003, the bill  
32 would move the base period closer, by one quarter, to the  
33 benefit claim filing date so that the base period would  
34 consist of the first four calendar quarters immediately  
35 preceding the calendar quarter in which the claim for

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1 unemployment benefits is filed.

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