



SB1828



Changes to Unemployment Insurance (UI) Benefits

- Signed into law by the Governor on June 30th, 2021, SB1828 amends sections within Article 6 of Title 23 of the Arizona Revised Statutes pertaining to the issuance of unemployment insurance benefits to claimants.
- Effective July 1st, 2022, the following changes to UI benefits include:
 - Change in the Duration of Benefits (A.R.S. 23-780)
 - Increase in Weekly Benefit Amount (A.R.S. 23-779.A.2)
 - Increase in Weekly Wage Allowance (A.R.S. 23-779.C)

Benefit Duration

- Current law allows for a possible maximum benefit award (MBA) up to 26 weeks. Effective July 1, 2022, the MBA will be determined by the average unemployment rate of the previous calendar quarter. This will retroactively affect some claims with an MBA of 25 or 26 weeks.
- DES will calculate the average unemployment rate of the prior calendar quarter based on the monthly rate published by the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO).
- Monthly rate will be published by the OEO on the 3rd Thursday of the following month.

<https://www.azcommerce.com/o eo /labor-market/unemployment/>

Weekly Benefit Amount (WBA)

- Increases maximum WBA from \$240 to \$320
- New potential maximum WBA will take effect on claims with a benefit year beginning (BYB) of 7/3/2022 and after.
 - Claims with a BYB prior to 7/3/2022 will continue to receive the WBA they were initially eligible for.
- Benefit calculation of WBA will remain the same by taking 4% from the highest quarter of wages in the base period.

Income Disregard Allowance

- Increases weekly wage allowance from \$30 to **\$160** for weekly certs filed.
- Effective BWE 7/02/2022 for all claims
- Reported earnings exceeding \$160 will receive a reduced WBA pursuant to A.R.S. 23-779.C