
SENATE BILL 5987

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 1st Special Session

By Senator Talmadge.

Read first time June 12, 1991. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 AN ACT Relating to unemployment insurance; adding new sections to
2 chapter 50.22 RCW; creating a new section; and declaring an emergency.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that it is vitally
5 important for unemployed steel workers and salaried employees of steel
6 mills to receive additional unemployment insurance benefits. These
7 additional benefits are awarded to assist these workers in making the
8 transition to other forms of suitable employment without undue
9 hardship.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Unless the context clearly requires
11 otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout section 3
12 of this act.

13 (1) "Steel worker" means a union worker that is unemployed because
14 of the closure, sale, or subsequent capital improvements to the plant

1 and equipment of a steel mill. The workers included within this
2 definition shall be determined by the employment security department.

3 (2) "Salaried employee" means any nonunion worker that is
4 unemployed because of the closure, sale, or subsequent capital
5 improvements to plant and equipment of a steel mill. The workers
6 included within this definition shall be determined by the employment
7 security department.

8 The commissioner may adopt rules further interpreting these
9 definitions.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) An additional benefit period is
11 established for the unemployed steel workers and salaried employees
12 identified under subsection (2) of this section beginning on the first
13 Sunday after the effective date of this section. Benefits shall be
14 paid as provided in subsection (3) of this section to exhaustees
15 eligible under subsection (4) of this section.

16 (2) The additional benefit period applies to steel workers and
17 salaried employees if the commissioner determines that the closure,
18 sale, or subsequent capital improvements of the plant and equipment of
19 a steel mill have resulted in their loss of employment.

20 (3) Additional benefits shall be paid as follows:

21 (a) No new claims for additional benefits shall be accepted for
22 weeks beginning after September 23, 1991, but for claims established on
23 or before September 23, 1991, weeks of unemployment occurring after
24 September 23, 1991, shall be compensated as provided in this section.

25 (b) The total additional benefit amount shall be twenty-six times
26 the individual's weekly benefit amount.

27 (c) The weekly benefit amount shall be calculated as specified in
28 RCW 50.22.040.

1 (d) Benefits paid under this section shall be paid under the same
2 terms and conditions as regular benefits and shall not be charged to
3 the experience rating account of the employer. The additional benefit
4 period shall be suspended with the start of an extended benefit period,
5 or any totally federally funded benefit program, with eligibility
6 criteria and benefits comparable to the program established by this
7 section, and shall resume the first week following the end of the
8 federal program.

9 (4) An additional benefit eligibility period is established for any
10 exhaustee who:

11 (a) At the time of last separation from employment was employed as
12 a steel worker or salaried employee in any department of a steel mill
13 identified under subsection (2) of this section; and

14 (b) Has received notice of termination or lay off; and

15 (c) Is unlikely to return to employment in the steel industry
16 because of a diminishing demand within his or her labor market.

17 (5) The commissioner shall adopt rules as necessary to implement
18 this section.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 2 and 3 of this act are each
20 added to chapter 50.22 RCW.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act is necessary for the immediate
22 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
23 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
24 effect immediately.