

## Amendments to State Unemployment Insurance Laws

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
Employment and Training Administration  
Washington, D.C. 20210

### REPORT ON STATE LEGISLATION

REPORT NO. 3  
December 2004

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**      B 436      ENACTED and EFFECTIVE April 21, 2004  
(L.N. 171)

#### Financing

Benefits paid due to domestic violence will be noncharged with respect to contributing employers and charged to reimbursable employers.

#### Nonmonetary Eligibility

Provides that individuals will not be denied unemployment benefits because of separations (discharge, voluntary, or involuntary) from employment due to domestic violence if certain supporting evidence is submitted; defines domestic violence.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**      B 937      ENACTED November 4, 2004  
(L.N. 222)      EFFECTIVE March 16, 2005

#### Nonmonetary Eligibility

Modifies the pension provision to reduce or offset unemployment compensation benefits only if the claimant receives a pension/annuity provided by the base period employer and the claimant has not made contribution to such pension/annuity (for benefit years beginning on or after July 1, 2004). Previously, benefits were reduced for all pensions/annuities and irrespective of claimant contributions to the pension/annuity.

**ILLINOIS**      SB 2547      ENACTED and EFFECTIVE August 24, 2004  
(P.A. 93-1012)

#### Financing

Noncharges an employer's account for benefit payments to individuals unemployed during the period that the employer's business is closed solely because of the entrance of the employer, one or more of the partners or officers of the employer, or the majority stockholder of the employer into active duty in the Illinois National Guard or the Armed Forces of the United States.

**NEW JERSEY**      Rule 16452      ADOPTED November 24, 2004

#### Monetary Entitlement

Increases the maximum weekly benefit rate from \$490 to \$503 effective for benefit years commencing on or after January 1, 2005.

Increases the maximum weekly benefit rate for State Plan benefits under the Temporary Disability Benefits program from \$459 to \$470 effective for periods of disability commencing on or after January 1, 2005.

Increases the taxable wage base from \$24,300 to \$24,900 during calendar year 2005.

Provides that the 0.4 percent contribution rate on wages for governmental entities and instrumentalities electing to pay contributions in 2005 is unchanged from 2004.

Provides that the \$103 amount needed to establish a base week in calendar year 2005 is unchanged from 2004.

Provides that the alternative earnings amount for establishing eligibility for both unemployment insurance and temporary disability insurance if the regular wage requirements are unmet remains at \$5,200 commencing on or after January 1, 2005.

**NEW YORK** SB 5891 ENACTED and EFFECTIVE November 24, 2004

Coverage

Excludes from the definition of "employment" recreational bowling, such as bowling in a league where an individual may occasionally win prize money.