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No

HEARINGS:

No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:

No

RWH/CL

P.L. 2020, CHAPTER 131, *approved December 4, 2020*
Assembly, No. 4852 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning extended unemployment benefits and amending
2 P.L.1970, c.324.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. Section 7 of P.L.1970, c.324 (C.43:21-24.13) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 7. An individual shall be eligible to receive extended benefits
10 with respect to any week of unemployment in **[his]** the individual's
11 eligibility period only if the division finds, that with respect to that
12 week, the individual:

13 a. **[he]** is an "exhaustee" as defined in paragraph j. of section 5
14 of P.L.1970, c.324 (C.43:21-24.11); and

15 b. **[he]** has satisfied the requirements of this act for the receipt
16 of regular benefits that are applicable to individuals claiming
17 extended benefits, including not being subject to a disqualification
18 for the receipt of benefits; and

19 c. **[he,]** for any initial claim for extended benefits effective
20 after September 25, 1982 and before ¹**[November 8, 2020]** June 28,
21 2020¹, has established entitlement for **[his]** the individual's
22 applicable benefit year based on the alternative earnings
23 requirement specified in subsection (e) of R.S. 43:21-4, and was
24 paid wages during the base year of ²**[his]** the individual's²
25 applicable benefit year which equaled or exceeded ²**[forty]** 40²
26 times ²**[his]** the individual's² weekly benefit rate; and

27 d. for any initial claim for extended benefits effective after
28 ¹**[November 7, 2020]** June 27, 2020¹, has established entitlement
29 for the individual's applicable benefit year based on the alternative
30 earnings requirement specified in subsection (e) of R.S. 43:21-4²,
31 and:

32 ⁽¹⁾**[** or² was paid wages during the base year of the individual's
33 applicable benefit year which equaled or exceeded ¹**[forty]** 40¹
34 times the individual's weekly benefit rate ²**[**; or

35 (2) was paid wages during that base year which equaled or
36 exceeded 1 1/2 times the individual's wages paid during the
37 calendar quarter of the base year in which the individual's wages
38 were highest; or

39 (3) had 20 full-time weeks of employment during that base
40 year]².

41 (cf: P.L.1982, c.144, s.2)

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly ALA committee amendments adopted October 22, 2020.

²Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted November 12, 2020.

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

2

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4

5

6 Concerns eligibility for extended unemployment benefits.

ASSEMBLY, No. 4852

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 19, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman YVONNE LOPEZ
District 19 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Benson, McClellan, Simonsen and Verrelli

SYNOPSIS

Concerns eligibility for extended unemployment benefits.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/22/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning extended unemployment benefits and amending
2 P.L.1970, c.324.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. Section 7 of P.L.1970, c.324 (C.43:21-24.13) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 7. An individual shall be eligible to receive extended benefits
10 with respect to any week of unemployment in **his** the individual's
11 eligibility period only if the division finds, that with respect to that
12 week, the individual:

13 a. **he** is an "exhaustee" as defined in paragraph j. of section 5
14 of P.L.1970, c.324 (C.43:21-24.11); and

15 b. **he** has satisfied the requirements of this act for the receipt
16 of regular benefits that are applicable to individuals claiming
17 extended benefits, including not being subject to a disqualification
18 for the receipt of benefits; and

19 c. **he,** for any initial claim for extended benefits effective
20 after September 25, 1982 and before November 8, 2020, has
21 established entitlement for **his** the individual's applicable benefit
22 year based on the alternative earnings requirement specified in
23 subsection (e) of R.S. 43:21-4, and was paid wages during the base
24 year of his applicable benefit year which equaled or exceeded forty
25 times his weekly benefit rate; and

26 d. for any initial claim for extended benefits effective after
27 November 7, 2020, has established entitlement for the individual's
28 applicable benefit year based on the alternative earnings
29 requirement specified in subsection (e) of R.S. 43:21-4, and:

30 (1) was paid wages during the base year of the individual's
31 applicable benefit year which equaled or exceeded forty times the
32 individual's weekly benefit rate; or

33 (2) was paid wages during that base year which equaled or
34 exceeded 1 1/2 times the individual's wages paid during the
35 calendar quarter of the base year in which the individual's wages
36 were highest; or

37 (3) had 20 full-time weeks of employment during that base year.

38 (cf: P.L.1982, c. 144, s. 2)

39

40 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

41

42

43

STATEMENT

44

45 This bill provides additional options for eligibility for extended
46 unemployment insurance (UI) benefits.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **thus** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

A4852 LOPEZ

1 Under the current UI law, an individual who qualifies for regular
2 UI benefits but exhausts those benefits, may then qualify for
3 extended UI benefits, funded on a 50-50, State/federal basis, only if
4 the individual was paid wages during the base year of the
5 individual's applicable benefit year 40 times the individual's
6 weekly benefit rate.

7 This bill permits the individual to be eligible for the UI benefits
8 if, during the base year, the individual attained the current
9 requirement of being paid wages 40 times his weekly benefit rate,
10 or the individual either was paid wages 1½ times the individual's
11 wages paid during the calendar quarter of the base year in which the
12 individual's wages were highest; or had twenty full-time weeks of
13 employment during that base year.

ASSEMBLY LABOR COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4852

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 22, 2020

The Assembly Labor Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 4852.

As amended, this bill provides additional options for eligibility for extended unemployment insurance (UI) benefits.

Under the current UI law, an individual who qualifies for regular UI benefits but exhausts those benefits, may then qualify for extended UI benefits, funded on a 50-50, State/federal basis, only if the individual was paid wages during the base year of the individual's applicable benefit year 40 times the individual's weekly benefit rate.

As amended, this bill permits the individual to be eligible for the UI extended benefits, for any claim after June 27, 2020, if, during the base year, the individual has established entitlement for benefits based on the alternative earnings requirement specified in subsection (e) of R.S.43:21-4; and the individual:

(1) attained the current requirement of being paid wages 40 times his weekly benefit rate; or

(2) was paid wages 1½ times the individual's wages paid during the calendar quarter of the base year in which the individual's wages were highest; or

(3) had 20 full-time weeks of employment during that base year.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to make the bill's provisions applicable to claims filed after June 27, 2020.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4852

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 12, 2020

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4852 (1R), with committee amendments.

This bill changes the requirements for eligibility for extended unemployment insurance (UI) benefits.

Under current law, an individual who qualifies for regular UI benefits but exhausts those benefits, may then qualify for extended UI benefits, funded on a 50-50, State/federal basis, only if the individual was paid wages during the base year of his applicable benefit year which are 40 times his weekly benefit rate.

With the amendments proposed by the sponsor, this bill permits the individual to be eligible for the extended UI benefits if, during the base year, the individual either had been eligible for regular UI benefits prior to exhausting those benefits, or attains the current requirement of being paid wages 40 times his weekly benefit rate.

Under current law, to be eligible for regular UI benefits, an individual is required, during the individual's base year, to have established 20 base weeks with minimum pay of 20 times the State minimum wage, or to have been paid not less than 1,000 times the State minimum wage during the entire base year.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

1. provide that an individual is eligible for extended UI benefits either because they had qualified for regular UI benefits or they attained the current requirement of being paid wages 40 times the individual's weekly benefit rate, instead of being required to meet both qualifications, as required in the current law; and
2. remove from the bill two alternative ways that the bill had added to the existing law for an individual to qualify for extended UI benefits, which were that the individual either was paid wages 1½ times the individual's wages paid during the calendar quarter of the base year in which the individual's wages were highest; or had twenty full-time weeks of employment during that base year.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) notes that, if enacted, this bill may increase annual expenditures to the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Compensation Fund, which would be realized by the bill's expansion of eligibility to a wider pool of extended unemployment (EU) benefit claims.

The OLS further notes that, under the bill, it is reasonable to expect a greater amount of EU benefits paid from the UI compensation fund compared to those benefits paid under current law. The OLS does not have enough information to estimate the number of claims or the total fiscal impact of enacting this bill.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[Second Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4852

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

DATED: NOVEMBER 19, 2020

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Concerns eligibility for extended unemployment benefits.
- Type of Impact:** Annual increase in expenditures and revenues to the Unemployment Insurance Compensation Fund.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Annual</u>
Expenditure Increase – Unemployment Insurance Compensation Fund	Indeterminate
Revenue Increase – Unemployment Insurance Compensation Fund	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) projects that this bill may increase annual expenditures from the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Compensation Fund, which would be realized by the bill's expansion of eligibility to a wider pool of extended unemployment (EU) benefit claims.
- The OLS notes that the UI Compensation Fund will receive an indeterminate amount of annual revenues from the federal government as extended UI benefits are funded on a 50-50 State/federal basis.
- The OLS further notes that, under the bill, it is reasonable to expect a greater amount of EU benefits paid from the UI compensation fund compared to those benefits paid under current law. The OLS does not have enough information to estimate the number of claims or the total fiscal impact of enacting this bill.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill changes the requirements for eligibility for extended UI benefits.

Under current law, an individual who qualifies for regular UI benefits but exhausts those benefits, may then qualify for extended UI benefits, funded on a 50-50, State/federal basis, only if the individual was paid wages during the base year of his applicable benefit year which are 40 times his weekly benefit rate.

This bill permits the individual to be eligible for the extended UI benefits if, during the base year, the individual either had been eligible for regular UI benefits prior to exhausting those benefits, or attains the current requirement of being paid wages 40 times his weekly benefit rate.

Under current law, to be eligible for regular UI benefits, an individual is required, during the individual's base year, to have established 20 base weeks with minimum pay of 20 times the State minimum wage, or to have been paid not less than 1,000 times the State minimum wage during the entire base year.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS projects that this bill may increase annual expenditures from the UI Compensation Fund, which would be realized by the bill's expansion of eligibility to a wider pool of EU benefit claims. The OLS notes that the UI Compensation Fund will receive an indeterminate amount of annual revenues from the federal government as extended UI benefits are funded on a 50-50 State/federal basis via a reimbursement from the federal government.

The OLS further notes that, under the bill, it is reasonable to expect a greater amount of EU benefits paid from the UI compensation fund compared to those benefits paid under current law. The OLS does not have enough information to estimate the number of claims or the total fiscal impact of enacting this bill.

For purposes of background, the weekly benefit rate is capped at a maximum amount based on the State minimum wage. For 2020, the maximum weekly benefit rate is \$713. The Division of Unemployment Insurance in the Department of Labor and Workforce Development calculates an individual's weekly benefit rate at 60% of the average weekly wage earned by the individual during the base year, up to that maximum. The division determines the average weekly wage based on wage information as reported by an individual's employer.

The bill applies to claims filed after June 27, 2020.

Section: Commerce, Labor and Industry
Analyst: Juan C. Rodriguez
Senior Fiscal Analyst
Approved: Thomas Koenig
Assistant Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

SENATE, No. 3063

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 19, 2020

Sponsored by:
Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE
District 19 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Concerns eligibility for extended unemployment benefits.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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2 P.L.1970, c.324.

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22 year based on the alternative earnings requirement specified in
23 subsection (e) of R.S. 43:21-4, and was paid wages during the base
24 year of his applicable benefit year which equaled or exceeded forty
25 times his weekly benefit rate; and

26 d. for any initial claim for extended benefits effective after
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35 calendar quarter of the base year in which the individual's wages
36 were highest; or

37 (3) had 20 full-time weeks of employment during that base year.

38 (cf: P.L.1982, c.144, s.2)

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40 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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45 This bill provides additional options for eligibility for extended
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47 Under the current UI law, an individual who qualifies for regular

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S3063 VITALE

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2 UI benefits, funded on a 50-50, State/federal basis, only if the
3 individual was paid wages during the base year of his applicable
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5 This bill permits the individual to be eligible for the UI benefits
6 if, during the base year, the individual attained the current
7 requirement of being paid wages 40 times his weekly benefit rate,
8 or the individual either was paid wages 1½ times the individual's
9 wages paid during the calendar quarter of the base year in which the
10 individual's wages were highest; or had twenty full-time weeks of
11 employment during that base year.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 3063

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 12, 2020

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3063, with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill changes the requirements for eligibility for extended unemployment insurance (UI) benefits.

Under current law, an individual who qualifies for regular UI benefits but exhausts those benefits, may then qualify for extended UI benefits, funded on a 50-50, State/federal basis, only if the individual was paid wages during the base year of his applicable benefit year which are 40 times his weekly benefit rate.

This bill permits the individual to be eligible for the extended UI benefits if, during the base year, the individual either had been eligible for regular UI benefits prior to exhausting those benefits, or attains the current requirement of being paid wages 40 times his weekly benefit rate.

Under current law, to be eligible for regular UI benefits, an individual is required, during the individual's base year, to have established 20 base weeks with minimum pay of 20 times the State minimum wage, or to have been paid not less than 1,000 times the State minimum wage during the entire base year.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments:

1. provide that an individual is eligible for extended UI benefits either because they had qualified for regular UI benefits or they attained the current requirement of being paid wages 40 times the individual's weekly benefit rate, instead of being required to meet both qualifications, as required in the current law;

2. remove from the bill two alternative ways that the bill had added to the existing law for an individual to qualify for extended UI benefits, which were that the individual either was paid wages 1½ times the individual's wages paid during the calendar quarter of the base year in which the individual's wages were highest; or had twenty full-time weeks of employment during that base year; and

3. make the bill's provisions applicable to claims filed after June 27, 2020.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) notes that, if enacted, this bill may increase annual expenditures to the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Compensation Fund, which would be realized by the bill's expansion of eligibility to a wider pool of extended unemployment (EU) benefit claims.

The OLS further notes that, under the bill, it is reasonable to expect a greater amount of EU benefits paid from the UI compensation fund compared to those benefits paid under current law. The OLS does not have enough information to estimate the number or the total fiscal impact of enacting this bill.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3063 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

DATED: NOVEMBER 19, 2020

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Concerns eligibility for extended unemployment benefits.
- Type of Impact:** Annual increase in expenditures and revenues to the Unemployment Insurance Compensation Fund.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Annual</u>
Expenditure Increase – Unemployment Insurance Compensation Fund	Indeterminate
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BILL DESCRIPTION

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This bill permits the individual to be eligible for the extended UI benefits if, during the base year, the individual either had been eligible for regular UI benefits prior to exhausting those benefits, or attains the current requirement of being paid wages 40 times his weekly benefit rate.

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FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS projects that this bill may increase annual expenditures from the UI Compensation Fund, which would be realized by the bill's expansion of eligibility to a wider pool of EU benefit claims. The OLS notes that the UI Compensation Fund will receive an indeterminate amount of annual revenues from the federal government as extended UI benefits are funded on a 50-50 State/federal basis via a reimbursement from the federal government.

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The bill applies to claims filed after June 27, 2020.

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This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

Governor Murphy Signs Legislation Expanding Eligibility for Extended Unemployment Insurance Benefits

12/4/2020

TRENTON – Governor Phil Murphy today signed legislation (A4852) expanding eligibility for extended UI benefits to claimants who either had been eligible for regular UI benefits prior to exhausting those benefits or earned 40 times their unemployment weekly benefits rate. Per prior law, eligibility for extended UI benefits, which offer up to an additional 20 weeks of benefits, was limited to claimants who satisfied both criteria.

“We have an obligation to make sure that New Jerseyans can stay afloat during these extraordinarily challenging times.” **said Governor Murphy.** “While we desperately need the federal government to step up, we’re doing our part to help working people weather the storm. This law will help many residents that were previously ineligible for extended UI benefits to get the financial relief that they earned and deserve.”

“We applaud the Legislature and the Governor for enacting this legislation, which will provide extended unemployment benefits for tens of thousands of additional workers at a time when they most need the support,” **said Labor Commissioner Robert Asaro-Angelo.**

Primary sponsors for A4852 include Assemblymembers Yvonne Lopez, Craig Coughlin, Vincent Mazzeo and Senators Joseph Vitale and Nellie Pou.

“As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to surge in New Jersey with no clear end in sight, we must do everything in our power to bolster our unemployment program and help unemployed workers through this difficult time,” **said Assembly sponsors of the bill Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, and Assemblyman Vince Mazzeo, in a joint statement.** “Uncertain times call for innovative measures and extending unemployment benefits for eligible workers under this new law will certainly help bridge the gap for workers to find new employment opportunities.”

“In the spring, millions of people became unemployed through no fault of their own, and have since been receiving unemployment benefits while they continue to look for work. However, for some these benefits are set to run out in the middle of December, leaving countless New Jersey residents without any financial security for the foreseeable future,” **said Senator Joseph Vitale.** “This is an essential piece of legislation that will ensure New Jersey’s extended benefits program eligibility is evaluated in the most generous way possible under federal law. Our residents need help, now, to pay their bills and survive during this pandemic. This bill will help them do that.”

“The pandemic has ravaged the state’s economy and left far too many families without any financial security other than their unemployment benefits. These benefits were set to expire in the coming weeks, but thanks to today’s signing that won’t be the case,” **said Senator Nellie Pou.** “Despite very good news about a COVID-19 vaccine, this public health crisis will likely continue well into the new year and we have a responsibility to our residents to ensure they receive the financial support they need.”

Claimants of Federal-State Unemployment Insurance Program benefits are entitled to 26 weeks of regular unemployment in New Jersey. The CARES Act offers up to 13 additional weeks of unemployment benefits through the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation program. After claimants exhaust their 26 weeks of State unemployment plus 13 weeks of federal Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation, claimants are eligible for extended benefits. Twenty weeks of extended benefits are available during “high unemployment periods.” The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development announced on July 1 that it would begin providing 20 weeks of extended unemployment to New Jersey workers who have exhausted their State and federal jobless benefits. The additional 20 weeks of benefits brings to 59 the maximum number of weeks an eligible claimant may receive unemployment benefits.

Under prior State unemployment law, a claimant qualifies for extended benefits, only if the claimant had been eligible for regular UI benefits prior to exhausting those benefits **and** was paid wages during the base year of the claimant's applicable benefit year 40 times the claimant's weekly benefit rate. A4852 permits the claimant to be eligible for the extended benefits if the claimant had been eligible for regular UI benefits prior to exhausting those benefits **or** earned 40 times their unemployment weekly benefit rate.

This Week in New Jersey: December 4th, 2020

12/4/2020



[Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order Pausing Indoor Practices and Competitions For Youth and Adults Sports and Lowering Limits On Outdoor Gatherings](#)

Governor Phil Murphy last night signed Executive Order No. 204, which pauses indoor practices and competitions for youth and adult sports from Saturday, December 5 at 6:00 a.m. through Saturday, January 2, 2021. The EO also lowers the outdoor gatherings limit from 150 people to 25 people, effective Monday, December 7 at 6:00 a.m.

"As we battle the second wave of COVID-19, we must continue to take all steps necessary to prevent needless infections, hospitalizations, and deaths from this deadly virus," **said Governor Murphy**. "While there is hope on the horizon in the form of several vaccines, in the interim, we are taking these steps today to protect our communities. It is our intention for indoor sports to resume in the new year, but this can only happen if our state remains committed to the fight against COVID-19."

[READ MORE](#)

[Governor Murphy Signs Legislation Expanding Eligibility For Extended Unemployment Insurance Benefits](#)

Governor Phil Murphy signed legislation (A4852) expanding eligibility for extended UI benefits to claimants who either had been eligible for regular UI benefits prior to exhausting those benefits or earned 40 times their unemployment weekly benefits rate. Per prior law, eligibility for extended UI benefits, which offer up to an additional 20 weeks of benefits, was limited to claimants who satisfied both criteria.

"We have an obligation to make sure that New Jerseyans can stay afloat during these extraordinarily challenging times," **said Governor Murphy**. "While we desperately need the federal government to step up, we're doing our part to help working people weather the storm. This law will help many residents that were previously ineligible for extended UI benefits to get the financial relief that they earned and deserve."

"We applaud the Legislature and the Governor for enacting this legislation, which will provide extended unemployment benefits for tens of thousands of additional workers at a time when they most need the support," **said Labor Commissioner Robert Asaro-Angelo**.

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Governor Phil Murphy ✓
@GovMurphy



Governor Murphy Announces Retirement of Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Catherine McCabe

Governor Phil Murphy announced that Catherine R. McCabe, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, will be retiring as of January 15, 2021.

Commissioner McCabe was an early appointment to Governor Murphy's cabinet, selected to lead the high-impact agency after a long career as an environmental lawyer and manager with the federal government, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Justice. McCabe last served as Deputy Regional Administrator of EPA's Region 2 office in New York City from 2014 to 2018. In 2017, she served as the Acting Administrator of the EPA and as Acting Regional Administrator of EPA Region 2.

"Through Catherine's leadership, our Administration has advanced critical initiatives to protect the environment and public health for future generations," said **Governor Murphy**. "From helping to enact New Jersey's first-in-the-nation environmental justice law to reigniting the State's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change, Commissioner McCabe has restored the Department to its rightful place as a national leader in environmental protection. I wish her nothing but the best as she enters retirement. There is no greater job than being a grandmother."

"It has been an honor to lead New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection, helping to implement Governor Murphy's bold vision in this critical time," said **Commissioner McCabe**. "Together with partners across the Administration, supported by DEP's exceptional career professionals, we have made New Jersey stronger and fairer through our respect for science and the rule of law, our commitment to equity and environmental justice, and stepping up to confront the most pressing environmental and public health challenges of our time. I am confident that, under Governor Murphy's leadership, our DEP team will continue to ensure that future generations of New Jerseyans will breathe cleaner air, drink safer water, and enjoy our abundant natural resources."

[READ MORE](#)

NEW: I signed legislation this morning EXPANDING eligibility for 20 weeks of extended unemployment benefits.

Washington needs to step up and extend emergency federal benefits – but we are prepared in case they fail to act.

1:22 PM · Dec 4, 2020 · Twitter Web App



DCA Announces Award Of \$2.6 Million In Neighborhood Preservation Covid-19 Relief Grants

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) announced the award of \$2.6 million in Neighborhood Preservation COVID-19 Relief Grants to 19 municipalities participating in the Neighborhood Preservation Program (NPP). The grants aim to promote the continued recovery and revitalization of NPP communities from the COVID-19 crisis by providing funding for eligible coronavirus response activities with a special emphasis on supporting impacted small businesses.

"Governor Murphy and I recognize how important it is that Neighborhood Preservation Program communities receive funding during the COVID-19 pandemic, which is why we have allocated federal coronavirus aid to them," said **Lt. Governor Sheila Y. Oliver, who serves as DCA Commissioner**. "The grant funding will be used to help these neighborhoods, which are particularly vulnerable to the crisis, recover faster by investing in their small businesses and in activities meant to draw people to live, work, and visit these places."

The relief grants are funded by an allocation from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The \$2.6 million in grant funds were awarded to municipalities that have a current, approved Neighborhood Preservation Program Implementation Plan through the local government or an NPP partner nonprofit organization. At least 60 percent of the funding is for business uses and must be distributed to small businesses located in their NPP neighborhood district boundaries with other funding dedicated to district-wide improvements that benefit both the local business and residential communities.

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New Jersey Division Of Highway And Traffic Safety Kicks Off "Drive Sober Or Get Pulled Over" Campaign Against Impaired Driving

To help ensure safety on the State's roadways, the Division of Highway Traffic Safety ("the Division") announced the kick-off of a statewide traffic safety campaign targeting drunk and impaired drivers.

Law enforcement agencies across the state will be patrolling New Jersey roads looking for drunk and impaired drivers as part of the annual "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" holiday campaign, which runs through January 1, 2021.

New Jersey's campaign is part of a nationwide effort to reduce crash risks during the holiday season. To assist with New Jersey's enforcement efforts, the Division has awarded grants totaling \$656,340 to 114 agencies across the state to fund enhanced patrolling and high-visibility sobriety checkpoints throughout New Jersey during the month of December.

"This has been a year of tremendous loss for New Jersey residents impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and we are all feeling especially grateful for the loved ones with us this holiday season," said **Attorney General Gurbir S.**

Grewal. "Help ensure that everyone can safely celebrate this year by driving sober and unimpaired. Drunk driving crashes are tragic and preventable. We are stepping up patrols and enforcement to keep New Jersey roadways safe for all who use them this holiday season."



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