43:21-7

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 2009 **CHAPTER**: 144

NJSA: 43:21-7 (Provides triggers for reductions of employer unemployment insurance taxes)

BILL NO: S562 (Substituted for A1503)

SPONSOR(S) Sweeney and Others

DATE INTRODUCED: January 8, 2008

COMMITTEE: ASSEMBLY: Budget

SENATE: Labor

Budget and Appropriations

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: No

DATE OF PASSAGE: ASSEMBLY: June 18, 2009

SENATE: May 22, 2008

DATE OF APPROVAL: November 20, 2009

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (Introduced version of bill enacted)

S562

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT: (Begins on page 25 of original bill)

Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: ASSEMBLY: Yes

SENATE: Yes Labor 3-6-08

Budget 5-19-08

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: Yes

A1503

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT: (Begins on page 25 of original bill)

Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: ASSEMBLY: Yes

SENATE: No

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

(continued)

	VETO MESSAGE:	No
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	REPORTS:	No
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	NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:	No

LAW/RWH

P.L. 2009, CHAPTER 144, *approved November 20*, *2009* Senate, No. 562

AN ACT concerning employer contributions to the unemployment compensation fund and amending R.S.43:21-7.

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

- 1. R.S.43:21-7 is amended to read as follows:
- 43:21-7. Contributions. Employers other than governmental entities, whose benefit financing provisions are set forth in section 4 of P.L.1971, c.346 (C.43:21-7.3), and those nonprofit organizations liable for payment in lieu of contributions on the basis set forth in section 3 of P.L.1971, c.346 (C.43:21-7.2), shall pay to the controller for the unemployment compensation fund, contributions as set forth in subsections (a), (b) and (c) hereof, and the provisions of subsections (d) and (e) shall be applicable to all employers, consistent with the provisions of the "unemployment compensation law" and the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law," P.L.1948, c.110 (C.43:21-25 et seq.).
 - (a) Payment.
 - (1) Contributions shall accrue and become payable by each employer for each calendar year in which he is subject to this chapter (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.), with respect to having individuals in his employ during that calendar year, at the rates and on the basis hereinafter set forth. Such contributions shall become due and be paid by each employer to the controller for the fund, in accordance with such regulations as may be prescribed, and shall not be deducted, in whole or in part, from the remuneration of individuals in his employ.
 - (2) In the payment of any contributions, a fractional part of a cent shall be disregarded unless it amounts to \$0.005 or more, in which case it shall be increased to \$0.01.
 - (b) Rate of contributions. Each employer shall pay the following contributions:
 - (1) For the calendar year 1947, and each calendar year thereafter, 2 7/10% of wages paid by him during each such calendar year, except as otherwise prescribed by subsection (c) of this section.
 - (2) The "wages" of any individual, with respect to any one employer, as the term is used in this subsection (b) and in subsections (c), (d) and (e) of this section 7, shall include the first \$4,800.00 paid during calendar year 1975, for services performed either within or without this State; provided that no contribution

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

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shall be required by this State with respect to services performed in another state if such other state imposes contribution liability with If an employer (hereinafter referred to as a respect thereto. successor employer) during any calendar year acquires substantially all the property used in a trade or business of another employer (hereinafter referred to as a predecessor), or used in a separate unit of a trade or business of a predecessor, and immediately after the acquisition employs in his trade or business an individual who immediately prior to the acquisition was employed in the trade or business of such predecessors, then, for the purpose of determining whether the successor employer has paid wages with respect to employment equal to the first \$4,800.00 paid during calendar year 1975, any wages paid to such individual by such predecessor during such calendar year and prior to such acquisition shall be considered as having been paid by such successor employer.

- (3) For calendar years beginning on and after January 1, 1976, the "wages" of any individual, as defined in the preceding paragraph (2) of this subsection (b), shall be established and promulgated by the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development on or before September 1 of the preceding year and shall be, 28 times the Statewide average weekly remuneration paid to workers by employers, as determined under R.S.43:21-3(c), raised to the next higher multiple of \$100.00 if not already a multiple thereof, provided that if the amount of wages so determined for a calendar year is less than the amount similarly determined for the preceding year, the greater amount will be used; provided, further, that if the amount of such wages so determined does not equal or exceed the amount of wages as defined in subsection (b) of section 3306 of the Federal Unemployment Tax Act, Chapter 23 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. s.3306(b)), the wages as determined in this paragraph in any calendar year shall be raised to equal the amount established under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act for that calendar year.
 - (c) Future rates based on benefit experience.
- (1) A separate account for each employer shall be maintained and this shall be credited with all the contributions which he has paid on his own behalf on or before January 31 of any calendar year with respect to employment occurring in the preceding calendar year; provided, however, that if January 31 of any calendar year falls on a Saturday or Sunday, an employer's account shall be credited as of January 31 of such calendar year with all the contributions which he has paid on or before the next succeeding day which is not a Saturday or Sunday. But nothing in this chapter (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.) shall be construed to grant any employer or individuals in his service prior claims or rights to the amounts paid by him into the fund either on his own behalf or on behalf of such individuals. Benefits paid with respect to benefit years

commencing on and after January 1, 1953, to any individual on or 1 2 before December 31 of any calendar year with respect to 3 unemployment in such calendar year and in preceding calendar 4 years shall be charged against the account or accounts of the 5 employer or employers in whose employment such individual established base weeks constituting the basis of such benefits, 6 7 except that, with respect to benefit years commencing after January 8 4, 1998, an employer's account shall not be charged for benefits 9 paid to a claimant if the claimant's employment by that employer 10 was ended in any way which, pursuant to subsection (a), (b), (c), 11 (f), (g) or (h) of R.S.43:21-5, would have disqualified the claimant 12 for benefits if the claimant had applied for benefits at the time when 13 that employment ended. Benefits paid under a given benefit 14 determination shall be charged against the account of the employer 15 to whom such determination relates. When each benefit payment is 16 made, either a copy of the benefit check or other form of 17 notification shall be promptly sent to the employer against whose 18 account the benefits are to be charged. Such copy or notification 19 shall identify the employer against whose account the amount of 20 such payment is being charged, shall show at least the name and 21 social security account number of the claimant and shall specify the 22 period of unemployment to which said check applies. If the total 23 amount of benefits paid to a claimant and charged to the account of 24 the appropriate employer exceeds 50% of the total base year, base 25 week wages paid to the claimant by that employer, then such 26 employer shall have canceled from his account such excess benefit 27 charges as specified above. 28

Each employer shall be furnished an annual summary statement of benefits charged to his account.

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- (2) Regulations may be prescribed for the establishment, maintenance, and dissolution of joint accounts by two or more employers, and shall, in accordance with such regulations and upon application by two or more employers to establish such an account, or to merge their several individual accounts in a joint account, maintain such joint account as if it constituted a single employer's account.
- (3) No employer's rate shall be lower than 5.4% unless assignment of such lower rate is consistent with the conditions applicable to additional credit allowance for such year under section 3303(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. s.3303(a)(1)), any other provision of this section to the contrary notwithstanding.
- (4) Employer Reserve Ratio. (A) Each employer's rate shall be 2 8/10%, except as otherwise provided in the following provisions. No employer's rate for the 12 months commencing July 1 of any calendar year shall be other than 2 8/10%, unless as of the preceding January 31 such employer shall have paid contributions

- with respect to wages paid in each of the three calendar years 1 2 immediately preceding such year, in which case such employer's 3 rate for the 12 months commencing July 1 of any calendar year 4 shall be determined on the basis of his record up to the beginning of 5 such calendar year. If, at the beginning of such calendar year, the 6 total of all his contributions, paid on his own behalf, for all past 7 years exceeds the total benefits charged to his account for all such 8 years, his contribution rate shall be:
 - (1) 2 5/10%, if such excess equals or exceeds 4%, but less than 5%, of his average annual payroll (as defined in paragraph (2), subsection (a) of R.S.43:21-19);

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- (2) 2 2/10%, if such excess equals or exceeds 5%, but is less than 6%, of his average annual payroll;
- (3) 1 9/10%, if such excess equals or exceeds 6%, but is less than 7%, of his average annual payroll;
- (4) 1 6/10%, if such excess equals or exceeds 7%, but is less than 8%, of his average annual payroll;
- (5) 1 3/10%, if such excess equals or exceeds 8%, but is less than 9%, of his average annual payroll;
 - (6) 1%, if such excess equals or exceeds 9%, but is less than 10%, of his average annual payroll;
 - (7) 7/10 of 1%, if such excess equals or exceeds 10%, but is less than 11%, of his average annual payroll;
- 24 (8) 4/10 of 1%, if such excess equals or exceeds 11% of his average annual payroll.
 - (B) If the total of an employer's contributions, paid on his own behalf, for all past periods for the purposes of this paragraph (4), is less than the total benefits charged against his account during the same period, his rate shall be:
- 30 (1) 4%, if such excess is less than 10% of his average annual 31 payroll;
 - (2) 4 3/10%, if such excess equals or exceeds 10%, but is less than 20%, of his average annual payroll;
 - (3) 4 6/10%, if such excess equals or exceeds 20% of his average annual payroll.
 - (C) Specially assigned rates.
 - (i) If no contributions were paid on wages for employment in any calendar year used in determining the average annual payroll of an employer eligible for an assigned rate under this paragraph (4), the employer's rate shall be specially assigned as follows:
 - if the reserve balance in its account is positive, its assigned rate shall be the highest rate in effect for positive balance accounts for that period, or 5.4%, whichever is higher, and
 - if the reserve balance in its account is negative, its assigned rate shall be the highest rate in effect for deficit accounts for that period.
- 46 (ii) If, following the purchase of a corporation with little or no 47 activity, known as a corporate shell, the resulting employing unit

operates a new or different business activity, the employing unit shall be assigned a new employer rate.

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- (iii) Entities operating under common ownership, management or control, when the operation of the entities is not identifiable, distinguishable and severable, shall be considered a single employer for the purposes of this chapter (R.S. 43:21-1 et seq.).
- (D) The contribution rates prescribed by subparagraphs (A) and (B) of this paragraph (4) shall be increased or decreased in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (5) of this subsection (c) for experience rating periods through June 30, 1986.
- (5) (A) Unemployment Trust Fund Reserve Ratio. If on March 31 of any calendar year the balance in the unemployment trust fund equals or exceeds 4% but is less than 7% of the total taxable wages reported to the controller as of that date in respect to employment during the preceding calendar year, the contribution rate, effective July 1 following, of each employer eligible for a contribution rate calculation based upon benefit experience, shall be increased by 3/10 of 1% over the contribution rate otherwise established under the provisions of paragraph (3) or (4) of this subsection. If on March 31 of any calendar year the balance of the unemployment trust fund exceeds 2 1/2% but is less than 4% of the total taxable wages reported to the controller as of that date in respect to employment during the preceding calendar year, the contribution rate, effective July 1 following, of each employer eligible for a contribution rate calculation based upon benefit experience, shall be increased by 6/10 of 1% over the contribution rate otherwise established under the provisions of paragraph (3) or (4) of this subsection.

If on March 31 of any calendar year the balance of the unemployment trust fund is less than 2 1/2% of the total taxable wages reported to the controller as of that date in respect to employment during the preceding calendar year, the contribution rate, effective July 1 following, of each employer (1) eligible for a contribution rate calculation based upon benefit experience, shall be increased by (i) 6/10 of 1% over the contribution rate otherwise established under the provisions of paragraph (3), (4)(A) or (4)(B) of this subsection, and (ii) an additional amount equal to 20% of the total rate established herein, provided, however, that the final contribution rate for each employer shall be computed to the nearest multiple of 1/10% if not already a multiple thereof; (2) not eligible for a contribution rate calculation based upon benefit experience, shall be increased by 6/10 of 1% over the contribution rate otherwise established under the provisions of paragraph (4) of this subsection. For the period commencing July 1, 1984 and ending June 30, 1986, the contribution rate for each employer liable to pay contributions under R.S.43:21-7 shall be increased by a factor of

1 10% computed to the nearest multiple of 1/10% if not already a multiple thereof.

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- (B) If on March 31 of any calendar year the balance in the unemployment trust fund equals or exceeds 10% but is less than 12 1/2% of the total taxable wages reported to the controller as of that date in respect to employment during the preceding calendar year, the contribution rate, effective July 1 following, of each employer eligible for a contribution rate calculation based upon benefit experience, shall be reduced by 3/10 of 1% under the contribution rate otherwise established under the provisions of paragraphs (3) and (4) of this subsection; provided that in no event shall the contribution rate of any employer be reduced to less than 4/10 of 1%. If on March 31 of any calendar year the balance in the unemployment trust fund equals or exceeds 12 1/2% of the total taxable wages reported to the controller as of that date in respect to employment during the preceding calendar year, the contribution rate, effective July 1 following, of each employer eligible for a contribution rate calculation based upon benefit experience, shall be reduced by 6/10 of 1% if his account for all past periods reflects an excess of contributions paid over total benefits charged of 3% or more of his average annual payroll, otherwise by 3/10 of 1% under the contribution rate otherwise established under the provisions of paragraphs (3) and (4) of this subsection; provided that in no event shall the contribution rate of any employer be reduced to less than 4/10 of 1%.
 - (C) The "balance" in the unemployment trust fund, as the term is used in subparagraphs (A) and (B) above, shall not include moneys credited to the State's account under section 903 of the Social Security Act, as amended (42 U.S.C.s.1103), during any period in which such moneys are appropriated for the payment of expenses incurred in the administration of the "unemployment compensation law."
 - (D) Prior to July 1 of each calendar year the controller shall determine the Unemployment Trust Reserve Ratio, which shall be calculated by dividing the balance of the unemployment trust fund as of the prior March 31 by total taxable wages reported to the controller by all employers as of March 31 with respect to their employment during the last calendar year.
- (E) (i) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1997, c.263).
 - (ii) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2001, c.152).
- 41 (iii) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2003, c.107).
- 42 (iv) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2004, c.45).
 - (v) [With respect to the experience rating year beginning on July 1, 2003, the new employer rate or the unemployment experience rate of an employer under this section shall be the rate which appears in the column headed by the Unemployment Trust Fund Reserve Ratio as of the applicable calculation date and on the

1	line with the Employer Reserve Ratio, as defined in paragraph 4 of									
2	this subsection (R.S.43:21-7 (c)(4)), as set forth in the following									
3	table:									
4	EXPERIENC				BLE					
5	Fund	d Reser								
6	2.50% 2.00% 1.50% 1.00% 0.99%									
7	Employer	and	to	to	to	and				
8	Reserve	Over	2.49%	1.99%	1.49%	Under				
9	Ratio ²	A	В	C	D	E				
10	Positive Reserve Ratio:									
11	17% and over	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	1.2				
12	16.00% to 16.99%	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6	1.2				
13	15.00% to 15.99%	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.7	1.2				
14	14.00% to 14.99%	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	1.2				
15	13.00% to 13.99%	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.2				
16	12.00% to 12.99%	0.6	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.2				
17	11.00% to 11.99%	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.2				
18	10.00% to 10.99%	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.5	1.6				
19	9.00% to 9.99%	1.0	1.3	1.6	1.7	1.9				
20	8.00% to 8.99%	1.3	1.6	1.9	2.1	2.3				
21	7.00% to 7.99%	1.4	1.8	2.2	2.4	2.6				
22	6.00% to 6.99%	1.7	2.1	2.5	2.8	3.0				
23	5.00% to 5.99%	1.9	2.4	2.8	3.1	3.4				
24	4.00% to 4.99%	2.0	2.6	3.1	3.4	3.7				
25	3.00% to 3.99%	2.1	2.7	3.2	3.6	3.9				
26	2.00% to 2.99%	2.2	2.8	3.3	3.7	4.0				
27	1.00% to 1.99%	2.3	2.9	3.4	3.8	4.1				
28	0.00% to 0.99%	2.4	3.0	3.6	4.0	4.3				
29	Deficit Reserve Ratio:									
30	-0.00% to -2.99%	3.4	4.3	5.1	5.6	6.1				
31	-3.00% to -5.99%	3.4	4.3	5.1	5.7	6.2				
32	-6.00% to -8.99%	3.5	4.4	5.2	5.8	6.3				
33	-9.00% to-11.99%	3.5	4.5	5.3	5.9	6.4				
34	-12.00% to-14.99%	3.6	4.6	5.4	6.0	6.5				
35	-15.00% to-19.99%	3.6	4.6	5.5	6.1	6.6				
36	-20.00% to-24.99%	3.7	4.7	5.6	6.2	6.7				
37	-25.00% to-29.99%	3.7	4.8	5.6	6.3	6.8				
38	-30.00% to-34.99%	3.8	4.8	5.7	6.3	6.9				
39		5.4		5.8	6.4	7.0				
40		2.8	2.8	2.8	3.1	3.4				
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42	¹ Fund balance as of March 31 as a percentage of taxable wages in the prior calendar year.									
43	² Employer Reserve Ratio (Contributions minus benefits as a									
44	percentage of employer's taxable wages). I (Deleted by amendment,									
45	P.L., c.									
46	(vi) With respect to experience rating years beginning on or									
47	after July 1, 2004, the new employer rate or the unemployment									
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1 experience rate of an employer under this section shall be the rate

- which appears in the column headed by the Unemployment Trust
- 3 Fund Reserve Ratio as of the applicable calculation date and on the
- 4 line with the Employer Reserve Ratio, as defined in paragraph 4 of
- 5 this subsection (R.S.43:21-7 (c)(4)), as set forth in the following
- 6 table:

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EXPERIENCE RATING TAX TABLE

8	Fund Reserve Ratio ¹						
9		1.40%	1.00%	0.75%	0.50%	0.49%	
10	Employer	and	to	to	to	and	
11	Reserve	Over	1.39%	0.99%	0.74%	Under	
12	Ratio ²	A	В	C	D	E	
13	Positive Reserve Ratio:						
14	17% and over	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	1.2	
15	16.00% to 16.99%	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6	1.2	
16	15.00% to 15.99%	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.7	1.2	
17	14.00% to 14.99%	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	1.2	
18	13.00% to 13.99%	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.2	
19	12.00% to 12.99%	0.6	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.2	
20	11.00% to 11.99%	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.2	
21	10.00% to 10.99%	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.5	1.6	
22	9.00% to 9.99%	1.0	1.3	1.6	1.7	1.9	
23	8.00% to 8.99%	1.3	1.6	1.9	2.1	2.3	
24	7.00% to 7.99%	1.4	1.8	2.2	2.4	2.6	
25	6.00% to 6.99%	1.7	2.1	2.5	2.8	3.0	
26	5.00% to 5.99%	1.9	2.4	2.8	3.1	3.4	
27	4.00% to 4.99%	2.0	2.6	3.1	3.4	3.7	
28	3.00% to 3.99%	2.1	2.7	3.2	3.6	3.9	
29	2.00% to 2.99%	2.2	2.8	3.3	3.7	4.0	
30	1.00% to 1.99%	2.3	2.9	3.4	3.8	4.1	
31	0.00% to 0.99%	2.4	3.0	3.6	4.0	4.3	
32	Deficit Reserve Ratio:						
33	-0.00% to -2.99%	3.4	4.3	5.1	5.6	6.1	
34	-3.00% to -5.99%	3.4	4.3	5.1	5.7	6.2	
35	-6.00% to -8.99%	3.5	4.4	5.2	5.8	6.3	
36	-9.00% to-11.99%	3.5	4.5	5.3	5.9	6.4	
37	-12.00% to-14.99%	3.6	4.6	5.4	6.0	6.5	
38	-15.00% to-19.99%	3.6	4.6	5.5	6.1	6.6	
39	-20.00% to-24.99%	3.7	4.7	5.6	6.2	6.7	
40	-25.00% to-29.99%	3.7	4.8	5.6	6.3	6.8	
41	-30.00% to-34.99%	3.8	4.8	5.7	6.3	6.9	
42	-35.00% and under	5.4	5.4	5.8	6.4	7.0	
43	New Employer Rate	2.8	2.8	2.8	3.1	3.4	

¹Fund balance as of March 31 as a percentage of taxable wages in the prior calendar year.

²Employer Reserve Ratio (Contributions minus benefits as a percentage of employer's taxable wages).

(F) (i) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1997, c.263).

- 2 (ii) [With respect to experience rating years beginning on or after July 1, 1997, if the fund reserve ratio, based on the fund balance as of the prior March 31, is less than 1.00%, the contribution rate for each employer liable to pay contributions, as computed under subparagraph (E) of this paragraph (5), shall be increased by a factor of 10% computed to the nearest multiple of 1/10% if not already a multiple thereof.] (Deleted by amendment, P.L., c.).
 - (iii) With respect to experience rating years beginning on or after July 1, 2004, if the fund reserve ratio, based on the fund balance as of the prior March 31, is less than 0.50%, the contribution rate for each employer liable to pay contributions, as computed under subparagraph (E) of this paragraph (5), shall be increased by a factor of 10% computed to the nearest multiple of 1/10% if not already a multiple thereof.
 - (G) On or after January 1, 1993, notwithstanding any other provisions of this paragraph (5), the contribution rate for each employer liable to pay contributions, as computed under subparagraph (E) of this paragraph (5), shall be decreased by 0.1%, except that, during any experience rating year starting before January 1, 1998 in which the fund reserve ratio is equal to or greater than 7.00% or during any experience rating year starting on or after January 1, 1998, in which the fund reserve ratio is equal to or greater than 3.5%, there shall be no decrease pursuant to this subparagraph (G) in the contribution of any employer who has a deficit reserve ratio of negative 35.00% or under.
 - [On or after January 1, 1993 until December 31, 1993, notwithstanding any other provisions of this paragraph (5), the contribution rate for each employer liable to pay contributions, as computed under subparagraph (E) of this paragraph (5), shall be decreased by a factor of 52.0% computed to the nearest multiple of 1/10%, except that, if an employer has a deficit reserve ratio of negative 35.0% or under, the employer's rate of contribution shall not be reduced pursuant to this subparagraph (H) to less than 5.4%. The amount of the reduction in the employer contributions stipulated by this subparagraph (H) shall be in addition to the amount of the reduction in the employer contributions stipulated by subparagraph (G) of this paragraph (5), except that the rate of contribution of an employer who has a deficit reserve ratio of negative 35.0% or under shall not be reduced pursuant to this subparagraph (H) to less than 5.4% and the rate of contribution of any other employer shall not be reduced to less than 0.0%. On or after January 1, 1994 until December 31, 1995, except as provided pursuant to subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (5), notwithstanding any other provisions of this paragraph (5), the contribution rate for each employer liable to pay contributions, as computed under

subparagraph (E) of this paragraph (5), shall be decreased by a 1 2 factor of 36.0% computed to the nearest multiple of 1/10%, except 3 that, if an employer has a deficit reserve ratio of negative 35.0% or 4 under, the employer's rate of contribution shall not be reduced 5 pursuant to this subparagraph (H) to less than 5.4%. The amount of 6 the reduction in the employer contributions stipulated by this 7 subparagraph (H) shall be in addition to the amount of the reduction 8 in the employer contributions stipulated by subparagraph (G) of this 9 paragraph (5), except that the rate of contribution of an employer 10 who has a deficit reserve ratio of negative 35.0% or under shall not 11 be reduced pursuant to this subparagraph (H) to less than 5.4% and 12 the rate of contribution of any other employer shall not be reduced 13 to less than 0.0%.

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On or after April 1, 1996 until December 31, 1996, the contribution rate for each employer liable to pay contributions, as computed under subparagraph (E) of this paragraph (5), shall be decreased by a factor of 25.0% computed to the nearest multiple of 1/10%, except that, if an employer has a deficit reserve ratio of negative 35.0% or under, the employer's rate of contribution shall not be reduced pursuant to this subparagraph (H) to less than 5.4%. The amount of the reduction in the employer contributions stipulated by this subparagraph (H) shall be in addition to the amount of the reduction in the employer contributions stipulated by subparagraph (G) of this paragraph (5), except that the rate of contribution of an employer who has a deficit reserve ratio of negative 35.0% or under shall not be reduced pursuant to this subparagraph (H) to less than 5.4% and the rate of contribution of any other employer shall not be reduced to less than 0.0%.

On or after January 1, 1997 until December 31, 1997, the contribution rate for each employer liable to pay contributions, as computed under subparagraph (E) of this paragraph (5), shall be decreased by a factor of 10.0% computed to the nearest multiple of 1/10%, except that, if an employer has a deficit reserve ratio of negative 35.0% or under, the employer's rate of contribution shall not be reduced pursuant to this subparagraph (H) to less than 5.4%. The amount of the reduction in the employer contributions stipulated by this subparagraph (H) shall be in addition to the amount of the reduction in the employer contributions stipulated by subparagraph (G) of this paragraph (5), except that the rate of contribution of an employer who has a deficit reserve ratio of negative 35.0% or under shall not be reduced pursuant to this subparagraph (H) to less than 5.4% and the rate of contribution of any other employer shall not be reduced to less than 0.0%.] (Deleted by amendment, P.L., c.)

On and after January 1, 1998 until December 31, 2000 and on or after January 1, 2002 until June 30, 2006, the contribution rate for each employer liable to pay contributions, as computed under

- 1 subparagraph (E) of this paragraph (5), shall be decreased by a
- 2 factor, as set out below, computed to the nearest multiple of 1/10%,
- 3 except that, if an employer has a deficit reserve ratio of negative
- 4 35.0% or under, the employer's rate of contribution shall not be
- 5 reduced pursuant to this subparagraph (H) to less than 5.4%:
- 6 From January 1, 1998 until December 31, 1998, a factor of 12%;
- From January 1, 1999 until December 31, 1999, a factor of 10%;
- From January 1, 2000 until December 31, 2000, a factor of 7%;
- 9 From January 1, 2002 until March 31, 2002, a factor of 36%;
- 10 From April 1, 2002 until June 30, 2002, a factor of 85%;
- 11 From July 1, 2002 until June 30, 2003, a factor of 15%;
- 12 From July 1, 2003 until June 30, 2004, a factor of 15%;
- 13 From July 1, 2004 until June 30, 2005, a factor of 7%;

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- 14 From July 1, 2005 until December 31, 2005, a factor of 16%; and
- 15 From January 1, 2006 until June 30, 2006, a factor of 34%.
 - The amount of the reduction in the employer contributions stipulated by this subparagraph (H) shall be in addition to the amount of the reduction in the employer contributions stipulated by subparagraph (G) of this paragraph (5), except that the rate of contribution of an employer who has a deficit reserve ratio of negative 35.0% or under shall not be reduced pursuant to this subparagraph (H) to less than 5.4% and the rate of contribution of any other employer shall not be reduced to less than 0.0%.
 - (I) [If the fund reserve ratio decreases to a level of less than 4.00% on March 31 of calendar year 1994 or calendar year 1995, the provisions of subparagraph (H) of this paragraph (5) shall cease to be in effect as of July 1 of that calendar year.
 - If, upon calculating the unemployment compensation fund reserve ratio pursuant to R.S.43:21-7(c)(5)(D) prior to March 31, 1997, March 31, 1998 or March 31, 1999, the controller finds that the fund reserve ratio has decreased to a level of less than 3.00%, the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development shall notify the State Treasurer of this fact and of the dollar amount necessary to bring the fund reserve ratio up to a level of 3.00%. The State Treasurer shall, prior to March 31, 1997, March 31, 1998 or March 31, 1999, as applicable, transfer from the General Fund to the unemployment compensation fund, revenues in the amount specified by the commissioner and which, upon deposit in the unemployment compensation fund, shall result, upon recalculation, in a fund reserve ratio used to determine employer contributions beginning July 1, 1997, July 1, 1998, July 1, 1999, as applicable, of upon calculating the unemployment 3.00%. If, compensation fund reserve ratio pursuant to R.S.43:21-7(c)(5)(D) prior to March 31, 2000, the controller finds that the fund reserve ratio has decreased to a level of less than 3.00%, the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development shall notify the State

Treasurer of this fact and of the dollar amount necessary to bring

- the fund reserve ratio up to a level of 3.00%. The State Treasurer 1 2 shall, prior to March 31, 2000, transfer from the General Fund to 3 the unemployment compensation fund, revenues in the amount 4 specified by the commissioner and which, upon deposit in the 5 unemployment compensation fund, shall result, upon recalculation, 6 in a fund reserve ratio used to determine employer contributions 7 beginning July 1, 2000 of at least 3.00%. I (Deleted by amendment, P.L. , c.) 8
- 9 (J) On or after July 1, 2001, notwithstanding any other 10 provisions of this paragraph (5), the contribution rate for each 11 employer liable to pay contributions, as computed under 12 subparagraph (E) of this paragraph (5), shall be decreased by 13 0.0175%, except that, during any experience rating year starting on 14 or after July 1, 2001, in which the fund reserve ratio is equal to or 15 greater than 3.5%, there shall be no decrease pursuant to this 16 subparagraph (J) in the contribution of any employer who has a 17 deficit reserve ratio of negative 35.00% or under. The amount of the 18 reduction in the employer contributions stipulated by this 19 subparagraph (J) shall be in addition to the amount of the reduction 20 in the employer contributions stipulated by subparagraphs (G) and 21 (H) of this paragraph (5), except that the rate of contribution of an 22 employer who has a deficit reserve ratio of negative 35.0% or under 23 shall not be reduced pursuant to this subparagraph (J) to less than 24 5.4% and the rate of contribution of any other employer shall not be 25 reduced to less than 0.0%.
 - (K) With respect to experience rating years beginning on or after July 1, 2009, if the fund reserve ratio, based on the fund balance as of the prior March 31, is:
 - (1) Equal to or greater than 5.00% but less than 7.5%, the contribution rate for each employer liable to pay contributions, as computed under subparagraph (E) of this paragraph (5), shall be reduced by a factor of 25% computed to the nearest multiple of 1/10% if not already a multiple thereof except that there shall be no decrease pursuant to this subparagraph (K) in the contribution of any employer who has a deficit reserve ratio of 35.00% or under.
 - (2) Equal to or greater than 7.5% but less than 10.0%, the contribution rate for each employer liable to pay contributions, as computed under subparagraph (E) of this paragraph (5), shall be reduced by a factor of 50% computed to the nearest multiple of 1/10% if not already a multiple thereof except that there shall be no decrease pursuant to this subparagraph (K) in the contribution of any employer who has a deficit reserve ratio of 35.00% or under.
 - (6) Additional contributions.

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Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any employer who has been assigned a contribution rate pursuant to subsection (c) of this section for the year commencing July 1, 1948, and for any year commencing July 1 thereafter, may voluntarily make payment of

1 additional contributions, and upon such payment shall receive a 2 recomputation of the experience rate applicable to such employer, 3 including in the calculation the additional contribution so made, 4 except that, following a transfer as described under R.S.43:21-5 7(c)(7)(D), neither the predecessor nor successor in interest shall be 6 eligible to make a voluntary payment of additional contributions 7 during the year the transfer occurs and the next full calendar year. 8 Any such additional contribution shall be made during the 30-day 9 period following the date of the mailing to the employer of the 10 notice of his contribution rate as prescribed in this section, unless, 11 for good cause, the time for payment has been extended by the 12 controller for not to exceed an additional 60 days; provided that in 13 no event may such payments which are made later than 120 days 14 after the beginning of the year for which such rates are effective be 15 considered in determining the experience rate for the year in which 16 the payment is made. Any employer receiving any extended period 17 of time within which to make such additional payment and failing 18 to make such payment timely shall be, in addition to the required 19 amount of additional payment, liable for a penalty of 5% thereof or 20 \$5.00, whichever is greater, not to exceed \$50.00. Any adjustment 21 under this subsection shall be made only in the form of credits 22 against accrued or future contributions.

(7) Transfers.

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(A) Upon the transfer of the organization, trade or business, or substantially all the assets of an employer to a successor in interest, whether by merger, consolidation, sale, transfer, descent or otherwise, the controller shall transfer the employment experience of the predecessor employer to the successor in interest, including credit for past years, contributions paid, annual payrolls, benefit charges, et cetera, applicable to such predecessor employer, pursuant to regulation, if it is determined that the employment experience of the predecessor employer with respect to the organization, trade, assets or business which has been transferred may be considered indicative of the future employment experience of the successor in interest. The successor in interest may, within four months of the date of such transfer of the organization, trade, assets or business, or thereafter upon good cause shown, request a reconsideration of the transfer of employment experience of the predecessor employer. The request for reconsideration shall demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the controller, that the employment experience of the predecessor is not indicative of the future employment experience of the successor.

(B) An employer who transfers part of his or its organization, trade, assets or business to a successor in interest, whether by merger, consolidation, sale, transfer, descent or otherwise, may jointly make application with such successor in interest for transfer of that portion of the employment experience of the predecessor

employer relating to the portion of the organization, trade, assets or business transferred to the successor in interest, including credit for past years, contributions paid, annual payrolls, benefit charges, et cetera, applicable to such predecessor employer. The transfer of employment experience may be allowed pursuant to regulation only if it is found that the employment experience of the predecessor employer with respect to the portion of the organization, trade, assets or business which has been transferred may be considered indicative of the future employment experience of the successor in interest. Credit shall be given to the successor in interest only for the years during which contributions were paid by the predecessor employer with respect to that part of the organization, trade, assets or business transferred.

- (C) A transfer of the employment experience in whole or in part having become final, the predecessor employer thereafter shall not be entitled to consideration for an adjusted rate based upon his or its experience or the part thereof, as the case may be, which has thus been transferred. A successor in interest to whom employment experience or a part thereof is transferred pursuant to this subsection shall, as of the date of the transfer of the organization, trade, assets or business, or part thereof, immediately become an employer if not theretofore an employer subject to this chapter (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.).
- (D) If an employer who transfers in whole or in part his or its organization, trade, assets or business to a successor in interest, whether by merger, consolidation, sale, transfer, descent or otherwise and both the employer and successor in interest are at the time of the transfer under common ownership, management or control, then the employment experience attributable to the transferred business shall also be transferred to and combined with the employment experience of the successor in interest. The transfer of the employment experience is mandatory and not subject to appeal or protest.
- (E) The transfer of part of an employer's employment experience to a successor in interest shall become effective as of the first day of the calendar quarter following the acquisition by the successor in interest. As of the effective date, the successor in interest shall have its employer rate recalculated by merging its existing employment experience, if any, with the employment experience acquired. If the successor in interest is not an employer as of the date of acquisition, it shall be assigned the new employer rate until the effective date of the transfer of employment experience.
- (F) Upon the transfer in whole or in part of the organization, trade, assets or business to a successor in interest, the employment experience shall not be transferred if the successor in interest is not an employer at the time of the acquisition and the controller finds

that the successor in interest acquired the business solely or primarily for the purpose of obtaining a lower rate of contributions.

- (d) Contributions of workers to the unemployment compensation fund and the State disability benefits fund.
- (1) (A) For periods after January 1, 1975, each worker shall contribute to the fund 1% of his wages with respect to his employment with an employer, which occurs on and after January 1, 1975, after such employer has satisfied the condition set forth in subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19 with respect to becoming an employer; provided, however, that such contributions shall be at the rate of 1/2 of 1% of wages paid with respect to employment while the worker is in the employ of the State of New Jersey, or any governmental entity or instrumentality which is an employer as defined under R.S.43:21-19(h)(5), or is covered by an approved private plan under the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law" or while the worker is exempt from the provisions of the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law" under section 7 of that law, P.L.1948, c.110 (C.43:21-31).
 - (B) Effective January 1, 1978 there shall be no contributions by workers in the employ of any governmental or nongovernmental employer electing or required to make payments in lieu of contributions unless the employer is covered by the State plan under the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law" (C.43:21-25 et seq.), and in that case contributions shall be at the rate of 1/2 of 1%, except that commencing July 1, 1986, workers in the employ of any nongovernmental employer electing or required to make payments in lieu of contributions shall be required to make contributions to the fund at the same rate prescribed for workers of other nongovernmental employers.
 - (C) (i) Notwithstanding the above provisions of this paragraph (1), during the period starting July 1, 1986 and ending December 31, 1992, each worker shall contribute to the fund 1.125% of wages paid with respect to his employment with a governmental employer electing or required to pay contributions or nongovernmental employer, including a nonprofit organization which is an employer as defined under R.S.43:21-19(h)(6), regardless of whether that nonprofit organization elects or is required to finance its benefit costs with contributions to the fund or by payments in lieu of contributions, after that employer has satisfied the conditions set forth in subsection R.S.43:21-19(h) with respect to becoming an employer. Contributions, however, shall be at the rate of 0.625% while the worker is covered by an approved private plan under the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law" while the worker is exempt under section 7 of that law, P.L.1948, c.110 (C.43:21-31) or any other provision of that law; provided that such contributions shall be at the rate of 0.625% of wages paid with respect to employment with the State of New Jersey or any other governmental entity or

- 1 instrumentality electing or required to make payments in lieu of 2 contributions and which is covered by the State plan under the 3 "Temporary Disability Benefits Law," except that, while the worker 4 is exempt from the provisions of the "Temporary Disability Benefits 5 Law" under section 7 of that law, P.L.1948, c.110 (C.43:21-31) or any other provision of that law, or is covered for disability benefits 6 7 by an approved private plan of the employer, the contributions to 8 the fund shall be 0.125%.
 - (ii) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1995, c.422.)

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10 (D) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this paragraph (1), during the period starting January 1, 1993 and ending June 30, 11 12 1994, each worker shall contribute to the unemployment 13 compensation fund 0.5% of wages paid with respect to the worker's 14 employment with a governmental employer electing or required to 15 pay contributions or nongovernmental employer, including a 16 nonprofit organization which is an employer as defined under 17 paragraph (6) of subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19, regardless of 18 whether that nonprofit organization elects or is required to finance 19 its benefit costs with contributions to the fund or by payments in 20 lieu of contributions, after that employer has satisfied the conditions 21 set forth in subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19 with respect to becoming 22 an employer. No contributions, however, shall be made by the 23 worker while the worker is covered by an approved private plan 24 under the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law," P.L.1948, c.110 25 (C.43:21-25 et seq.) or while the worker is exempt under section 7 26 of P.L.1948, c.110 (C.43:21-31) or any other provision of that law; 27 provided that the contributions shall be at the rate of 0.50% of wages paid with respect to employment with the State of New 28 29 Jersey or any other governmental entity or instrumentality electing 30 or required to make payments in lieu of contributions and which is 31 covered by the State plan under the "Temporary Disability Benefits 32 Law," except that, while the worker is exempt from the provisions 33 of the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law" under section 7 of that 34 law, P.L.1948, c.110 (C.43:21-31) or any other provision of that 35 law, or is covered for disability benefits by an approved private plan 36 of the employer, no contributions shall be made to the fund.

Each worker shall, starting on January 1, 1996 and ending March 31, 1996, contribute to the unemployment compensation fund 0.60% of wages paid with respect to the worker's employment with a governmental employer electing or required to pay contributions or nongovernmental employer, including a nonprofit organization which is an employer as defined under paragraph (6) of subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19, regardless of whether that nonprofit organization elects or is required to finance its benefit costs with contributions to the fund or by payments in lieu of contributions, after that employer has satisfied the conditions set forth in subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19 with respect to becoming an

employer, provided that the contributions shall be at the rate of 0.10% of wages paid with respect to employment with the State of New Jersey or any other governmental entity or instrumentality electing or required to make payments in lieu of contributions.

Each worker shall, starting on January 1, 1998 and ending December 31, 1998, contribute to the unemployment compensation fund 0.10% of wages paid with respect to the worker's employment with a governmental employer electing or required to pay contributions or nongovernmental employer, including a nonprofit organization which is an employer as defined under paragraph (6) of subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19, regardless of whether that nonprofit organization elects or is required to finance its benefit costs with contributions to the fund or by payments in lieu of contributions, after that employer has satisfied the conditions set forth in subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19 with respect to becoming an employer, provided that the contributions shall be at the rate of 0.10% of wages paid with respect to employment with the State of New Jersey or any other governmental entity or instrumentality electing or required to make payments in lieu of contributions.

Each worker shall, starting on January 1, 1999 until December 31, 1999, contribute to the unemployment compensation fund 0.15% of wages paid with respect to the worker's employment with a governmental employer electing or required to pay contributions or nongovernmental employer, including a nonprofit organization which is an employer as defined under paragraph (6) of subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19, regardless of whether that nonprofit organization elects or is required to finance its benefit costs with contributions to the fund or by payments in lieu of contributions, after that employer has satisfied the conditions set forth in subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19 with respect to becoming an employer, provided that the contributions shall be at the rate of 0.10% of wages paid with respect to employment with the State of New Jersey or any other governmental entity or instrumentality electing or required to make payments in lieu of contributions.

Each worker shall, starting on January 1, 2000 until December 31, 2001, contribute to the unemployment compensation fund 0.20% of wages paid with respect to the worker's employment with a governmental employer electing or required to pay contributions or nongovernmental employer, including a nonprofit organization which is an employer as defined under paragraph (6) of subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19, regardless of whether that nonprofit organization elects or is required to finance its benefit costs with contributions to the fund or by payments in lieu of contributions, after that employer has satisfied the conditions set forth in subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19 with respect to becoming an employer, provided that the contributions shall be at the rate of 0.10% of wages paid with respect to employment with the State of

New Jersey or any other governmental entity or instrumentality electing or required to make payments in lieu of contributions.

Each worker shall, starting on January 1, 2002 until June 30, 2004, contribute to the unemployment compensation fund 0.1825% of wages paid with respect to the worker's employment with a governmental employer electing or required to pay contributions or a nongovernmental employer, including a nonprofit organization which is an employer as defined under paragraph (6) of subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19, regardless of whether that nonprofit organization elects or is required to finance its benefit costs with contributions to the fund or by payments in lieu of contributions, after that employer has satisfied the conditions set forth in subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19 with respect to becoming an employer, provided that the contributions shall be at the rate of 0.0825% of wages paid with respect to employment with the State of New Jersey or any other governmental entity or instrumentality electing or required to make payments in lieu of contributions.

Each worker shall, starting on and after July 1, 2004, contribute to the unemployment compensation fund 0.3825% of wages paid with respect to the worker's employment with a governmental employer electing or required to pay contributions or nongovernmental employer, including a nonprofit organization which is an employer as defined under paragraph (6) of subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19, regardless of whether that nonprofit organization elects or is required to finance its benefit costs with contributions to the fund or by payments in lieu of contributions, after that employer has satisfied the conditions set forth in subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19 with respect to becoming an employer, provided that the contributions shall be at the rate of 0.0825% of wages paid with respect to employment with the State of New Jersey or any other governmental entity or instrumentality electing or required to make payments in lieu of contributions.

(E) Each employer shall, notwithstanding any provision of law in this State to the contrary, withhold in trust the amount of his workers' contributions from their wages at the time such wages are paid, shall show such deduction on his payroll records, shall furnish such evidence thereof to his workers as the division or controller may prescribe, and shall transmit all such contributions, in addition to his own contributions, to the office of the controller in such manner and at such times as may be prescribed. If any employer fails to deduct the contributions of any of his workers at the time their wages are paid, or fails to make a deduction therefor at the time wages are paid for the next succeeding payroll period, he alone shall thereafter be liable for such contributions, and for the purpose of R.S.43:21-14, such contributions shall be treated as employer's contributions required from him.

- (F) As used in this chapter (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.), except when the context clearly requires otherwise, the term "contributions" shall include the contributions of workers pursuant to this section.
- (G) Each worker shall, starting on July 1, 1994, contribute to the State disability benefits fund an amount equal to 0.50% of wages paid with respect to the worker's employment with a government employer electing or required to pay contributions to the State disability benefits fund or nongovernmental employer, including a nonprofit organization which is an employer as defined under paragraph (6) of subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19, unless the employer is covered by an approved private disability plan or is exempt from the provisions of the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law," P.L.1948, c.110 (C.43:21-25 et seq.) under section 7 of that law (C.43:21-31) or any other provision of that law.
- (2) (A) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1984, c.24.)
- 16 (B) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1984, c.24.)

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- 17 (C) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1994, c.112.)
- 18 (D) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1994, c.112.)
- 19 (E) (i) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1994, c.112.)
- 20 (ii) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1996, c.28.)
- 21 (iii) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1994, c.112.)
 - (3) If an employee receives wages from more than one employer during any calendar year, and either the sum of his contributions deposited in and credited to the State disability benefits fund plus the amount of his contributions, if any, required towards the costs of benefits under one or more approved private plans under the provisions of section 9 of the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law" (C.43:21-33) and deducted from his wages, or the sum of such latter contributions, if the employee is covered during such calendar year only by two or more private plans, exceeds an amount equal to 1/2 of 1% of the "wages" determined in accordance with the provisions of R.S.43:21-7(b)(3) during the calendar years beginning on or after January 1, 1976, the employee shall be entitled to a refund of the excess if he makes a claim to the controller within two years after the end of the calendar year in which the wages are received with respect to which the refund is claimed and establishes his right to such refund. Such refund shall be made by the controller from the State disability benefits fund. No interest shall be allowed or paid with respect to any such refund. The controller shall, in accordance with prescribed regulations, determine the portion of the aggregate amount of such refunds made during any calendar year which is applicable to private plans for which deductions were made under section 9 of the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law" (C.43:21-33) such determination to be based upon the ratio of the amount of such wages exempt from contributions to such fund, as provided in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) of this subsection with respect to coverage under private plans, to the total wages so exempt plus the

- amount of such wages subject to contributions to the disability benefits fund, as provided in subparagraph (G) of paragraph (1) of this subsection. The controller shall, in accordance with prescribed regulations, prorate the amount so determined among the applicable private plans in the proportion that the wages covered by each plan bear to the total private plan wages involved in such refunds, and shall assess against and recover from the employer, or the insurer if the insurer has indemnified the employer with respect thereto, the amount so prorated. The provisions of R.S.43:21-14 with respect to collection of employer contributions shall apply to such assessments. The amount so recovered by the controller shall be paid into the State disability benefits fund.
 - (4) If an individual does not receive any wages from the employing unit which for the purposes of this chapter (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.) is treated as his employer, or receives his wages from some other employing unit, such employer shall nevertheless be liable for such individual's contributions in the first instance; and after payment thereof such employer may deduct the amount of such contributions from any sums payable by him to such employing unit, or may recover the amount of such contributions from such employing unit, or, in the absence of such an employing unit, from such individual, in a civil action; provided proceedings therefor are instituted within three months after the date on which such contributions are payable. General rules shall be prescribed whereby such an employing unit may recover the amount of such contributions from such individuals in the same manner as if it were the employer.
 - (5) Every employer who has elected to become an employer subject to this chapter (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.), or to cease to be an employer subject to this chapter (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.), pursuant to the provisions of R.S.43:21-8, shall post and maintain printed notices of such election on his premises, of such design, in such numbers, and at such places as the director may determine to be necessary to give notice thereof to persons in his service.
 - (6) Contributions by workers, payable to the controller as herein provided, shall be exempt from garnishment, attachment, execution, or any other remedy for the collection of debts.
 - (e) Contributions by employers to State disability benefits fund.
 - (1) Except as hereinafter provided, each employer shall, in addition to the contributions required by subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this section, contribute 1/2 of 1% of the wages paid by such employer to workers with respect to employment unless he is not a covered employer as defined in section 3 of the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law" (C.43:21-27 (a)), except that the rate for the State of New Jersey shall be 1/10 of 1% for the calendar year 1980 and for the first six months of 1981. Prior to July 1, 1981 and prior to July 1 each year thereafter, the controller shall review the

- experience accumulated in the account of the State of New Jersey and establish a rate for the next following fiscal year which, in combination with worker contributions, will produce sufficient revenue to keep the account in balance; except that the rate so established shall not be less than 1/10 of 1%. Such contributions shall become due and be paid by the employer to the controller for the State disability benefits fund as established by law, in accordance with such regulations as may be prescribed, and shall not be deducted, in whole or in part, from the remuneration of individuals in his employ. In the payment of any contributions, a fractional part of a cent shall be disregarded unless it amounts to \$0.005 or more, in which case it shall be increased to \$0.01.
- (2) During the continuance of coverage of a worker by an approved private plan of disability benefits under the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law," the employer shall be exempt from the contributions required by subparagraph (1) above with respect to wages paid to such worker.
- (3) (A) The rates of contribution as specified in subparagraph (1) above shall be subject to modification as provided herein with respect to employer contributions due on and after July 1, 1951.
- (B) A separate disability benefits account shall be maintained for each employer required to contribute to the State disability benefits fund and such account shall be credited with contributions deposited in and credited to such fund with respect to employment occurring on and after January 1, 1949. Each employer's account shall be credited with all contributions paid on or before January 31 of any calendar year on his own behalf and on behalf of individuals in his service with respect to employment occurring in preceding calendar years; provided, however, that if January 31 of any calendar year falls on a Saturday or Sunday an employer's account shall be credited as of January 31 of such calendar year with all the contributions which he has paid on or before the next succeeding day which is not a Saturday or Sunday. But nothing in this act shall be construed to grant any employer or individuals in his service prior claims or rights to the amounts paid by him to the fund either on his own behalf or on behalf of such individuals. Benefits paid to any covered individual in accordance with Article III of the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law" on or before December 31 of any calendar year with respect to disability in such calendar year and in preceding calendar years shall be charged against the account of the employer by whom such individual was employed at the commencement of such disability or by whom he was last employed, if out of employment.
- (C) The controller may prescribe regulations for the establishment, maintenance, and dissolution of joint accounts by two or more employers, and shall, in accordance with such regulations and upon application by two or more employers to

establish such an account, or to merge their several individual accounts in a joint account, maintain such joint account as if it constituted a single employer's account.

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- (D) Prior to July 1 of each calendar year, the controller shall make a preliminary determination of the rate of contribution for the 12 months commencing on such July 1 for each employer subject to the contribution requirements of this subsection (e).
- (1) Such preliminary rate shall be 1/2 of 1% unless on the preceding January 31 of such year such employer shall have been a covered employer who has paid contributions to the State disability benefits fund with respect to employment in the three calendar years immediately preceding such year.
- If the minimum requirements in (1) above have been fulfilled and the credited contributions exceed the benefits charged by more than \$500.00, such preliminary rate shall be as follows:
- (i) 2/10 of 1% if such excess over \$500.00 exceeds 1% but is less than 1 1/4% of his average annual payroll as defined in this chapter (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.);
- (ii) 15/100 of 1% if such excess over \$500.00 equals or exceeds 1 1/4% but is less than 1 1/2% of his average annual payroll;
- (iii) 1/10 of 1% if such excess over \$500.00 equals or exceeds 1 1/2% of his average annual payroll.
- If the minimum requirements in (1) above have been fulfilled and the contributions credited exceed the benefits charged but by not more than \$500.00 plus 1% of his average annual payroll, or if the benefits charged exceed the contributions credited but by not more than \$500.00, the preliminary rate shall be 1/4 of 1%.
- If the minimum requirements in (1) above have been fulfilled and the benefits charged exceed the contributions credited by more than \$500.00, such preliminary rate shall be as follows:
- (i) 35/100 of 1% if such excess over \$500.00 is less than 1/4 of 1% of his average annual payroll;
- (ii) 45/100 of 1% if such excess over \$500.00 equals or exceeds 1/4 of 1% but is less than 1/2 of 1% of his average annual payroll;
- (iii) 55/100 of 1% if such excess over \$500.00 equals or exceeds 1/2 of 1% but is less than 3/4 of 1% of his average annual payroll;
- (iv) 65/100 of 1% if such excess over \$500.00 equals or exceeds 3/4 of 1% but is less than 1% of his average annual payroll;
- (v) 75/100 of 1% if such excess over \$500.00 equals or exceeds 1% of his average annual payroll.
- (5) Determination of the preliminary rate as specified in (2), (3) and (4) above shall be subject, however, to the condition that it shall in no event be decreased by more than 1/10 of 1% of wages or increased by more than 2/10 of 1% of wages from the preliminary rate determined for the preceding year in accordance with (1), (2),
- 47 (3) or (4), whichever shall have been applicable.

- (E) (1) Prior to July 1 of each calendar year the controller shall determine the amount of the State disability benefits fund as of December 31 of the preceding calendar year, increased by the contributions paid thereto during January of the current calendar year with respect to employment occurring in the preceding calendar year. If such amount exceeds the net amount withdrawn from the unemployment trust fund pursuant to section 23 of the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law," P.L.1948, c.110 (C.43:21-47) plus the amount at the end of such preceding calendar year of the unemployment disability account as defined in section 22 of said law (C.43:21-46), such excess shall be expressed as a percentage of the wages on which contributions were paid to the State disability benefits fund on or before January 31 with respect to employment in the preceding calendar year.
 - (2) The controller shall then make a final determination of the rates of contribution for the 12 months commencing July 1 of such year for employers whose preliminary rates are determined as provided in (D) hereof, as follows:
 - (i) If the percentage determined in accordance with paragraph (E)(1) of this subsection equals or exceeds 1 1/4%, the final employer rates shall be the preliminary rates determined as provided in (D) hereof, except that if the employer's preliminary rate is determined as provided in (D)(2) or (D)(3) hereof, the final employer rate shall be the preliminary employer rate decreased by such percentage of excess taken to the nearest 5/100 of 1%, but in no case shall such final rate be less than 1/10 of 1%.
 - (ii) If the percentage determined in accordance with paragraph (E)(1) of this subsection equals or exceeds 3/4 of 1% and is less than 1 1/4 of 1%, the final employer rates shall be the preliminary employer rates.
 - (iii) If the percentage determined in accordance with paragraph (E)(1) of this subsection is less than 3/4 of 1%, but in excess of 1/4 of 1%, the final employer rates shall be the preliminary employer rates determined as provided in (D) hereof increased by the difference between 3/4 of 1% and such percentage taken to the nearest 5/100 of 1%; provided, however, that no such final rate shall be more than 1/4 of 1% in the case of an employer whose preliminary rate is determined as provided in (D)(2) hereof, more than 1/2 of 1% in the case of an employer whose preliminary rate is determined as provided in (D)(1) and (D)(3) hereof, nor more than 3/4 of 1% in the case of an employer whose preliminary rate is determined as provided in (D)(4) hereof.
 - (iv) If the amount of the State disability benefits fund determined as provided in paragraph (E)(1) of this subsection is equal to or less than 1/4 of 1%, then the final rate shall be 2/5 of 1% in the case of an employer whose preliminary rate is determined as provided in (D)(2) hereof, 7/10 of 1% in the case of an employer

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whose preliminary rate is determined as provided in (D)(1) and 1 2 (D)(3) hereof, and 1.1% in the case of an employer whose 3 preliminary rate is determined as provided in (D)(4) hereof. 4 Notwithstanding any other provision of law or any determination 5 made by the controller with respect to any 12-month period commencing on July 1, 1970, the final rates for all employers for 6 7 the period beginning January 1, 1971, shall be as set forth herein. 8 (cf: P.L.2005, c.249, s.1) 9 2. This act shall take effect immediately. 10 11 12 13 14 Provides triggers for reductions of employer unemployment 15 16 insurance taxes.

SENATE, No. 562

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

213th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2008 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY
District 3 (Salem, Cumberland and Gloucester)
Senator PAUL A. SARLO
District 36 (Bergen, Essex and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by: Senator Madden

SYNOPSIS

Provides triggers for reductions of employer unemployment insurance taxes.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/7/2008)

AN ACT concerning employer contributions to the unemployment compensation fund and amending R.S.43:21-7.

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

- 1. R.S.43:21-7 is amended to read as follows:
- 43:21-7. Contributions. Employers other than governmental entities, whose benefit financing provisions are set forth in section 4 of P.L.1971, c.346 (C.43:21-7.3), and those nonprofit organizations liable for payment in lieu of contributions on the basis set forth in section 3 of P.L.1971, c.346 (C.43:21-7.2), shall pay to the controller for the unemployment compensation fund, contributions as set forth in subsections (a), (b) and (c) hereof, and the provisions of subsections (d) and (e) shall be applicable to all employers, consistent with the provisions of the "unemployment compensation law" and the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law," P.L.1948, c.110 (C.43:21-25 et seq.).
 - (a) Payment.
 - (1) Contributions shall accrue and become payable by each employer for each calendar year in which he is subject to this chapter (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.), with respect to having individuals in his employ during that calendar year, at the rates and on the basis hereinafter set forth. Such contributions shall become due and be paid by each employer to the controller for the fund, in accordance with such regulations as may be prescribed, and shall not be deducted, in whole or in part, from the remuneration of individuals in his employ.
 - (2) In the payment of any contributions, a fractional part of a cent shall be disregarded unless it amounts to \$0.005 or more, in which case it shall be increased to \$0.01.
 - (b) Rate of contributions. Each employer shall pay the following contributions:
 - (1) For the calendar year 1947, and each calendar year thereafter, 2 7/10% of wages paid by him during each such calendar year, except as otherwise prescribed by subsection (c) of this section.
 - (2) The "wages" of any individual, with respect to any one employer, as the term is used in this subsection (b) and in subsections (c), (d) and (e) of this section 7, shall include the first \$4,800.00 paid during calendar year 1975, for services performed either within or without this State; provided that no contribution shall be required by this State with respect to services performed in another state if such other state imposes contribution liability with respect thereto. If an employer (hereinafter referred to as a

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

1 successor employer) during any calendar year acquires substantially 2 all the property used in a trade or business of another employer 3 (hereinafter referred to as a predecessor), or used in a separate unit 4 of a trade or business of a predecessor, and immediately after the 5 acquisition employs in his trade or business an individual who 6 immediately prior to the acquisition was employed in the trade or 7 business of such predecessors, then, for the purpose of determining 8 whether the successor employer has paid wages with respect to 9 employment equal to the first \$4,800.00 paid during calendar year 10 1975, any wages paid to such individual by such predecessor during 11 such calendar year and prior to such acquisition shall be considered 12 as having been paid by such successor employer.

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- (3) For calendar years beginning on and after January 1, 1976, the "wages" of any individual, as defined in the preceding paragraph (2) of this subsection (b), shall be established and promulgated by the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development on or before September 1 of the preceding year and shall be, 28 times the Statewide average weekly remuneration paid to workers by employers, as determined under R.S.43:21-3(c), raised to the next higher multiple of \$100.00 if not already a multiple thereof, provided that if the amount of wages so determined for a calendar year is less than the amount similarly determined for the preceding year, the greater amount will be used; provided, further, that if the amount of such wages so determined does not equal or exceed the amount of wages as defined in subsection (b) of section 3306 of the Federal Unemployment Tax Act, Chapter 23 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. s.3306(b)), the wages as determined in this paragraph in any calendar year shall be raised to equal the amount established under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act for that calendar year.
 - (c) Future rates based on benefit experience.
- (1) A separate account for each employer shall be maintained and this shall be credited with all the contributions which he has paid on his own behalf on or before January 31 of any calendar year with respect to employment occurring in the preceding calendar year; provided, however, that if January 31 of any calendar year falls on a Saturday or Sunday, an employer's account shall be credited as of January 31 of such calendar year with all the contributions which he has paid on or before the next succeeding day which is not a Saturday or Sunday. But nothing in this chapter (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.) shall be construed to grant any employer or individuals in his service prior claims or rights to the amounts paid by him into the fund either on his own behalf or on behalf of such Benefits paid with respect to benefit years individuals. commencing on and after January 1, 1953, to any individual on or before December 31 of any calendar year with respect to unemployment in such calendar year and in preceding calendar

years shall be charged against the account or accounts of the employer or employers in whose employment such individual established base weeks constituting the basis of such benefits, except that, with respect to benefit years commencing after January 4, 1998, an employer's account shall not be charged for benefits paid to a claimant if the claimant's employment by that employer was ended in any way which, pursuant to subsection (a), (b), (c), (f), (g) or (h) of R.S.43:21-5, would have disqualified the claimant for benefits if the claimant had applied for benefits at the time when that employment ended. Benefits paid under a given benefit determination shall be charged against the account of the employer to whom such determination relates. When each benefit payment is made, either a copy of the benefit check or other form of notification shall be promptly sent to the employer against whose account the benefits are to be charged. Such copy or notification shall identify the employer against whose account the amount of such payment is being charged, shall show at least the name and social security account number of the claimant and shall specify the period of unemployment to which said check applies. If the total amount of benefits paid to a claimant and charged to the account of the appropriate employer exceeds 50% of the total base year, base week wages paid to the claimant by that employer, then such employer shall have canceled from his account such excess benefit charges as specified above.

Each employer shall be furnished an annual summary statement of benefits charged to his account.

- (2) Regulations may be prescribed for the establishment, maintenance, and dissolution of joint accounts by two or more employers, and shall, in accordance with such regulations and upon application by two or more employers to establish such an account, or to merge their several individual accounts in a joint account, maintain such joint account as if it constituted a single employer's account.
- (3) No employer's rate shall be lower than 5.4% unless assignment of such lower rate is consistent with the conditions applicable to additional credit allowance for such year under section 3303(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. s.3303(a)(1)), any other provision of this section to the contrary notwithstanding.
- (4) Employer Reserve Ratio. (A) Each employer's rate shall be 2 8/10%, except as otherwise provided in the following provisions. No employer's rate for the 12 months commencing July 1 of any calendar year shall be other than 2 8/10%, unless as of the preceding January 31 such employer shall have paid contributions with respect to wages paid in each of the three calendar years immediately preceding such year, in which case such employer's rate for the 12 months commencing July 1 of any calendar year

shall be determined on the basis of his record up to the beginning of such calendar year. If, at the beginning of such calendar year, the total of all his contributions, paid on his own behalf, for all past years exceeds the total benefits charged to his account for all such years, his contribution rate shall be:

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- (1) 2 5/10%, if such excess equals or exceeds 4%, but less than 5%, of his average annual payroll (as defined in paragraph (2), subsection (a) of R.S.43:21-19);
- 9 (2) 2 2/10%, if such excess equals or exceeds 5%, but is less than 6%, of his average annual payroll;
 - (3) 1 9/10%, if such excess equals or exceeds 6%, but is less than 7%, of his average annual payroll;
 - (4) 1 6/10%, if such excess equals or exceeds 7%, but is less than 8%, of his average annual payroll;
 - (5) 1 3/10%, if such excess equals or exceeds 8%, but is less than 9%, of his average annual payroll;
 - (6) 1%, if such excess equals or exceeds 9%, but is less than 10%, of his average annual payroll;
 - (7) 7/10 of 1%, if such excess equals or exceeds 10%, but is less than 11%, of his average annual payroll;
 - (8) 4/10 of 1%, if such excess equals or exceeds 11% of his average annual payroll.
 - (B) If the total of an employer's contributions, paid on his own behalf, for all past periods for the purposes of this paragraph (4), is less than the total benefits charged against his account during the same period, his rate shall be:
- 27 (1) 4%, if such excess is less than 10% of his average annual 28 payroll;
 - (2) 4 3/10%, if such excess equals or exceeds 10%, but is less than 20%, of his average annual payroll;
 - (3) 4 6/10%, if such excess equals or exceeds 20% of his average annual payroll.
 - (C) Specially assigned rates.
 - (i) If no contributions were paid on wages for employment in any calendar year used in determining the average annual payroll of an employer eligible for an assigned rate under this paragraph (4), the employer's rate shall be specially assigned as follows:
 - if the reserve balance in its account is positive, its assigned rate shall be the highest rate in effect for positive balance accounts for that period, or 5.4%, whichever is higher, and
- if the reserve balance in its account is negative, its assigned rate shall be the highest rate in effect for deficit accounts for that period.
- 43 (ii) If, following the purchase of a corporation with little or no 44 activity, known as a corporate shell, the resulting employing unit 45 operates a new or different business activity, the employing unit 46 shall be assigned a new employer rate.

(iii) Entities operating under common ownership, management or control, when the operation of the entities is not identifiable, distinguishable and severable, shall be considered a single employer for the purposes of this chapter (R.S. 43:21-1 et seq.).

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- (D) The contribution rates prescribed by subparagraphs (A) and (B) of this paragraph (4) shall be increased or decreased in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (5) of this subsection (c) for experience rating periods through June 30, 1986.
- (5) (A) Unemployment Trust Fund Reserve Ratio. If on March 31 of any calendar year the balance in the unemployment trust fund equals or exceeds 4% but is less than 7% of the total taxable wages reported to the controller as of that date in respect to employment during the preceding calendar year, the contribution rate, effective July 1 following, of each employer eligible for a contribution rate calculation based upon benefit experience, shall be increased by 3/10 of 1% over the contribution rate otherwise established under the provisions of paragraph (3) or (4) of this subsection. If on March 31 of any calendar year the balance of the unemployment trust fund exceeds 2 1/2% but is less than 4% of the total taxable wages reported to the controller as of that date in respect to employment during the preceding calendar year, the contribution rate, effective July 1 following, of each employer eligible for a contribution rate calculation based upon benefit experience, shall be increased by 6/10 of 1% over the contribution rate otherwise established under the provisions of paragraph (3) or (4) of this subsection.

If on March 31 of any calendar year the balance of the unemployment trust fund is less than 2 1/2% of the total taxable wages reported to the controller as of that date in respect to employment during the preceding calendar year, the contribution rate, effective July 1 following, of each employer (1) eligible for a contribution rate calculation based upon benefit experience, shall be increased by (i) 6/10 of 1% over the contribution rate otherwise established under the provisions of paragraph (3), (4)(A) or (4)(B) of this subsection, and (ii) an additional amount equal to 20% of the total rate established herein, provided, however, that the final contribution rate for each employer shall be computed to the nearest multiple of 1/10% if not already a multiple thereof; (2) not eligible for a contribution rate calculation based upon benefit experience, shall be increased by 6/10 of 1% over the contribution rate otherwise established under the provisions of paragraph (4) of this subsection. For the period commencing July 1, 1984 and ending June 30, 1986, the contribution rate for each employer liable to pay contributions under R.S.43:21-7 shall be increased by a factor of 10% computed to the nearest multiple of 1/10% if not already a multiple thereof.

- (B) If on March 31 of any calendar year the balance in the 1 2 unemployment trust fund equals or exceeds 10% but is less than 12 3 1/2% of the total taxable wages reported to the controller as of that 4 date in respect to employment during the preceding calendar year, 5 the contribution rate, effective July 1 following, of each employer 6 eligible for a contribution rate calculation based upon benefit 7 experience, shall be reduced by 3/10 of 1% under the contribution 8 rate otherwise established under the provisions of paragraphs (3) 9 and (4) of this subsection; provided that in no event shall the 10 contribution rate of any employer be reduced to less than 4/10 of 1%. If on March 31 of any calendar year the balance in the 11 12 unemployment trust fund equals or exceeds 12 1/2% of the total 13 taxable wages reported to the controller as of that date in respect to 14 employment during the preceding calendar year, the contribution 15 rate, effective July 1 following, of each employer eligible for a 16 contribution rate calculation based upon benefit experience, shall be 17 reduced by 6/10 of 1% if his account for all past periods reflects an 18 excess of contributions paid over total benefits charged of 3% or 19 more of his average annual payroll, otherwise by 3/10 of 1% under 20 the contribution rate otherwise established under the provisions of 21 paragraphs (3) and (4) of this subsection; provided that in no event 22 shall the contribution rate of any employer be reduced to less than 23 4/10 of 1%.
 - (C) The "balance" in the unemployment trust fund, as the term is used in subparagraphs (A) and (B) above, shall not include moneys credited to the State's account under section 903 of the Social Security Act, as amended (42 U.S.C.s.1103), during any period in which such moneys are appropriated for the payment of expenses incurred in the administration of the "unemployment compensation law."
 - (D) Prior to July 1 of each calendar year the controller shall determine the Unemployment Trust Reserve Ratio, which shall be calculated by dividing the balance of the unemployment trust fund as of the prior March 31 by total taxable wages reported to the controller by all employers as of March 31 with respect to their employment during the last calendar year.
 - (E) (i) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1997, c.263).
 - (ii) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2001, c.152).
 - (iii) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2003, c.107).
- 40 (iv) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2004, c.45).

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(v) [With respect to the experience rating year beginning on July 1, 2003, the new employer rate or the unemployment experience rate of an employer under this section shall be the rate which appears in the column headed by the Unemployment Trust Fund Reserve Ratio as of the applicable calculation date and on the line with the Employer Reserve Ratio, as defined in paragraph 4 of

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1	this subsection (R.S.43:21-7 (c)(4)), as set forth in the following						
2	table:						
3	EXPERIENC				BLE		
4	Fund	d Reser					
5			2.00%		1.00%		
6	Employer	and	to	to	to	and	
7	Reserve	Over		1.99%			
8	Ratio ²	A	В	C	D	E	
9	Positive Reserve Ratio:						
10	17% and over	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	1.2	
11	16.00% to 16.99%	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6	1.2	
12	15.00% to 15.99%	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.7	1.2	
13	14.00% to 14.99%	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	1.2	
14	13.00% to 13.99%	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.2	
15	12.00% to 12.99%	0.6	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.2	
16	11.00% to 11.99%	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.2	
17	10.00% to 10.99%	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.5	1.6	
18	9.00% to 9.99%	1.0	1.3	1.6	1.7	1.9	
19	8.00% to 8.99%	1.3	1.6	1.9	2.1	2.3	
20	7.00% to 7.99%	1.4	1.8	2.2	2.4	2.6	
21	6.00% to 6.99%	1.7	2.1	2.5	2.8	3.0	
22	5.00% to 5.99%	1.9	2.4	2.8	3.1	3.4	
23	4.00% to 4.99%	2.0	2.6	3.1	3.4	3.7	
24	3.00% to 3.99%	2.1	2.7	3.2	3.6	3.9	
25	2.00% to 2.99%	2.2	2.8	3.3	3.7	4.0	
26	1.00% to 1.99%	2.3	2.9	3.4	3.8	4.1	
27	0.00% to 0.99%	2.4	3.0	3.6	4.0	4.3	
28	Deficit Reserve Ratio:						
29	-0.00% to -2.99%	3.4	4.3	5.1	5.6	6.1	
30	-3.00% to -5.99%	3.4	4.3	5.1	5.7	6.2	
31	-6.00% to -8.99%	3.5	4.4	5.2	5.8	6.3	
32	-9.00% to-11.99%	3.5	4.5	5.3	5.9	6.4	
33	-12.00% to-14.99%	3.6	4.6	5.4	6.0	6.5	
34	-15.00% to-19.99%	3.6	4.6	5.5	6.1	6.6	
35	-20.00% to-24.99%	3.7	4.7	5.6	6.2	6.7	
36	-25.00% to-29.99%	3.7	4.8	5.6	6.3	6.8	
37	-30.00%to-34.99%	3.8	4.8	5.7	6.3	6.9	
38		5.4	5.4	5.8	6.4	7.0	
39	New Employer Rate	2.8	2.8	2.8	3.1	3.4	
40	¹ Fund balance as of Mar						
41	in the prior calendar year.		is a per	comage	01 1471	acie wages	
42	² Employer Reserve Rat	io (Cor	ntributio	one mi	nus he	nefits as a	
43	percentage of employer's taxable wages). I (Deleted by amendment,						
44	P.L. , c.)	· ·			. 1		
45	(vi) With respect to ex	-			•	•	
46	after July 1, 2004, the new	w empl	oyer ra	ite or t	ne une	mployment	

experience rate of an employer under this section shall be the rate

- which appears in the column headed by the Unemployment Trust
- 2 Fund Reserve Ratio as of the applicable calculation date and on the
- 3 line with the Employer Reserve Ratio, as defined in paragraph 4 of
- 4 this subsection (R.S.43:21-7 (c)(4)), as set forth in the following
- 5 table:

EXPERIENCE RATING TAX TABLE

U	EXIERIENC	L KAI	INO 17	\mathbf{M}	JLE			
7	Fund Reserve Ratio ¹							
8		1.40%	1.00%	0.75%	0.50%	0.49%		
9	Employer	and	to	to	to	and		
10	Reserve	Over	1.39%	0.99%	0.74%	Under		
11	Ratio ²	A	В	C	D	E		
12	Positive Reserve Ratio:							
13	17% and over	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	1.2		
14	16.00% to 16.99%	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6	1.2		
15	15.00% to 15.99%	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.7	1.2		
16	14.00% to 14.99%	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	1.2		
17	13.00% to 13.99%	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.2		
18	12.00% to 12.99%	0.6	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.2		
19	11.00% to 11.99%	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.2		
20	10.00% to 10.99%	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.5	1.6		
21	9.00% to 9.99%	1.0	1.3	1.6	1.7	1.9		
22	8.00% to 8.99%	1.3	1.6	1.9	2.1	2.3		
23	7.00% to 7.99%	1.4	1.8	2.2	2.4	2.6		
24	6.00% to 6.99%	1.7	2.1	2.5	2.8	3.0		
25	5.00% to 5.99%	1.9	2.4	2.8	3.1	3.4		
26	4.00% to 4.99%	2.0	2.6	3.1	3.4	3.7		
27	3.00% to 3.99%	2.1	2.7	3.2	3.6	3.9		
28	2.00% to 2.99%	2.2	2.8	3.3	3.7	4.0		
29	1.00% to 1.99%	2.3	2.9	3.4	3.8	4.1		
30	0.00% to 0.99%	2.4	3.0	3.6	4.0	4.3		
31	Deficit Reserve Ratio:							
32	-0.00% to -2.99%	3.4	4.3	5.1	5.6	6.1		
33	-3.00% to -5.99%	3.4	4.3	5.1	5.7	6.2		
34	-6.00% to -8.99%	3.5	4.4	5.2	5.8	6.3		
35	-9.00% to-11.99%	3.5	4.5	5.3	5.9	6.4		
36	-12.00% to-14.99%	3.6	4.6	5.4	6.0	6.5		
37	-15.00% to-19.99%	3.6	4.6	5.5	6.1	6.6		
38	-20.00% to-24.99%	3.7	4.7	5.6	6.2	6.7		
39	-25.00% to-29.99%	3.7	4.8	5.6	6.3	6.8		
40	-30.00% to-34.99%	3.8	4.8	5.7	6.3	6.9		
41	-35.00% and under	5.4	5.4	5.8	6.4	7.0		
42	New Employer Rate	2.8	2.8	2.8	3.1	3.4		

¹Fund balance as of March 31 as a percentage of taxable wages in the prior calendar year.

²Employer Reserve Ratio (Contributions minus benefits as a percentage of employer's taxable wages).

^{47 (}F) (i) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1997, c.263).

(ii) [With respect to experience rating years beginning on or 1 2 after July 1, 1997, if the fund reserve ratio, based on the fund 3 balance as of the prior March 31, is less than 1.00%, the 4 contribution rate for each employer liable to pay contributions, as 5 computed under subparagraph (E) of this paragraph (5), shall be 6 increased by a factor of 10% computed to the nearest multiple of 7 1/10% if not already a multiple thereof. [(Deleted by amendment, 8 P.L. , c.).

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- (iii) With respect to experience rating years beginning on or after July 1, 2004, if the fund reserve ratio, based on the fund balance as of the prior March 31, is less than 0.50%, the contribution rate for each employer liable to pay contributions, as computed under subparagraph (E) of this paragraph (5), shall be increased by a factor of 10% computed to the nearest multiple of 1/10% if not already a multiple thereof.
- (G) On or after January 1, 1993, notwithstanding any other provisions of this paragraph (5), the contribution rate for each employer liable to pay contributions, as computed under subparagraph (E) of this paragraph (5), shall be decreased by 0.1%, except that, during any experience rating year starting before January 1, 1998 in which the fund reserve ratio is equal to or greater than 7.00% or during any experience rating year starting on or after January 1, 1998, in which the fund reserve ratio is equal to or greater than 3.5%, there shall be no decrease pursuant to this subparagraph (G) in the contribution of any employer who has a deficit reserve ratio of negative 35.00% or under.
- [On or after January 1, 1993 until December 31, 1993, 27 28 notwithstanding any other provisions of this paragraph (5), the 29 contribution rate for each employer liable to pay contributions, as 30 computed under subparagraph (E) of this paragraph (5), shall be 31 decreased by a factor of 52.0% computed to the nearest multiple of 32 1/10%, except that, if an employer has a deficit reserve ratio of 33 negative 35.0% or under, the employer's rate of contribution shall 34 not be reduced pursuant to this subparagraph (H) to less than 5.4%. 35 The amount of the reduction in the employer contributions 36 stipulated by this subparagraph (H) shall be in addition to the 37 amount of the reduction in the employer contributions stipulated by 38 subparagraph (G) of this paragraph (5), except that the rate of 39 contribution of an employer who has a deficit reserve ratio of 40 negative 35.0% or under shall not be reduced pursuant to this 41 subparagraph (H) to less than 5.4% and the rate of contribution of 42 any other employer shall not be reduced to less than 0.0%. On or 43 after January 1, 1994 until December 31, 1995, except as provided 44 pursuant to subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (5), notwithstanding 45 any other provisions of this paragraph (5), the contribution rate for 46 each employer liable to pay contributions, as computed under 47 subparagraph (E) of this paragraph (5), shall be decreased by a

factor of 36.0% computed to the nearest multiple of 1/10%, except that, if an employer has a deficit reserve ratio of negative 35.0% or under, the employer's rate of contribution shall not be reduced pursuant to this subparagraph (H) to less than 5.4%. The amount of the reduction in the employer contributions stipulated by this subparagraph (H) shall be in addition to the amount of the reduction in the employer contributions stipulated by subparagraph (G) of this paragraph (5), except that the rate of contribution of an employer who has a deficit reserve ratio of negative 35.0% or under shall not be reduced pursuant to this subparagraph (H) to less than 5.4% and the rate of contribution of any other employer shall not be reduced to less than 0.0%.

On or after April 1, 1996 until December 31, 1996, the contribution rate for each employer liable to pay contributions, as computed under subparagraph (E) of this paragraph (5), shall be decreased by a factor of 25.0% computed to the nearest multiple of 1/10%, except that, if an employer has a deficit reserve ratio of negative 35.0% or under, the employer's rate of contribution shall not be reduced pursuant to this subparagraph (H) to less than 5.4%. The amount of the reduction in the employer contributions stipulated by this subparagraph (H) shall be in addition to the amount of the reduction in the employer contributions stipulated by subparagraph (G) of this paragraph (5), except that the rate of contribution of an employer who has a deficit reserve ratio of negative 35.0% or under shall not be reduced pursuant to this subparagraph (H) to less than 5.4% and the rate of contribution of any other employer shall not be reduced to less than 0.0%.

On or after January 1, 1997 until December 31, 1997, the contribution rate for each employer liable to pay contributions, as computed under subparagraph (E) of this paragraph (5), shall be decreased by a factor of 10.0% computed to the nearest multiple of 1/10%, except that, if an employer has a deficit reserve ratio of negative 35.0% or under, the employer's rate of contribution shall not be reduced pursuant to this subparagraph (H) to less than 5.4%. The amount of the reduction in the employer contributions stipulated by this subparagraph (H) shall be in addition to the amount of the reduction in the employer contributions stipulated by subparagraph (G) of this paragraph (5), except that the rate of contribution of an employer who has a deficit reserve ratio of negative 35.0% or under shall not be reduced pursuant to this subparagraph (H) to less than 5.4% and the rate of contribution of any other employer shall not be reduced to less than 0.0%.] (Deleted by amendment, P.L., c.)

On and after January 1, 1998 until December 31, 2000 and on or after January 1, 2002 until June 30, 2006, the contribution rate for each employer liable to pay contributions, as computed under subparagraph (E) of this paragraph (5), shall be decreased by a

- 1 factor, as set out below, computed to the nearest multiple of 1/10%,
- 2 except that, if an employer has a deficit reserve ratio of negative
- 3 35.0% or under, the employer's rate of contribution shall not be
- 4 reduced pursuant to this subparagraph (H) to less than 5.4%:
- From January 1, 1998 until December 31, 1998, a factor of 12%;
- 6 From January 1, 1999 until December 31, 1999, a factor of 10%;
- From January 1, 2000 until December 31, 2000, a factor of 7%;
- 8 From January 1, 2002 until March 31, 2002, a factor of 36%;
- 9 From April 1, 2002 until June 30, 2002, a factor of 85%;
- 10 From July 1, 2002 until June 30, 2003, a factor of 15%;
- 11 From July 1, 2003 until June 30, 2004, a factor of 15%;
- 12 From July 1, 2004 until June 30, 2005, a factor of 7%;

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- From July 1, 2005 until December 31, 2005, a factor of 16%; and
- 14 From January 1, 2006 until June 30, 2006, a factor of 34%.
 - The amount of the reduction in the employer contributions stipulated by this subparagraph (H) shall be in addition to the amount of the reduction in the employer contributions stipulated by subparagraph (G) of this paragraph (5), except that the rate of contribution of an employer who has a deficit reserve ratio of negative 35.0% or under shall not be reduced pursuant to this subparagraph (H) to less than 5.4% and the rate of contribution of any other employer shall not be reduced to less than 0.0%.
 - (I) [If the fund reserve ratio decreases to a level of less than 4.00% on March 31 of calendar year 1994 or calendar year 1995, the provisions of subparagraph (H) of this paragraph (5) shall cease to be in effect as of July 1 of that calendar year.
- If, upon calculating the unemployment compensation fund 27 28 reserve ratio pursuant to R.S.43:21-7(c)(5)(D) prior to March 31, 29 1997, March 31, 1998 or March 31, 1999, the controller finds that 30 the fund reserve ratio has decreased to a level of less than 3.00%, the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development shall 31 32 notify the State Treasurer of this fact and of the dollar amount 33 necessary to bring the fund reserve ratio up to a level of 3.00%. 34 The State Treasurer shall, prior to March 31, 1997, March 31, 1998 35 or March 31, 1999, as applicable, transfer from the General Fund to 36 the unemployment compensation fund, revenues in the amount 37 specified by the commissioner and which, upon deposit in the 38 unemployment compensation fund, shall result, upon recalculation, 39 in a fund reserve ratio used to determine employer contributions 40 beginning July 1, 1997, July 1, 1998, July 1, 1999, as applicable, of 41 3.00%. If, upon calculating the unemployment 42 compensation fund reserve ratio pursuant to R.S.43:21-7(c)(5)(D) 43 prior to March 31, 2000, the controller finds that the fund reserve 44 ratio has decreased to a level of less than 3.00%, the Commissioner 45 of Labor and Workforce Development shall notify the State Treasurer of this fact and of the dollar amount necessary to bring 46 47 the fund reserve ratio up to a level of 3.00%. The State Treasurer

- shall, prior to March 31, 2000, transfer from the General Fund to the unemployment compensation fund, revenues in the amount specified by the commissioner and which, upon deposit in the unemployment compensation fund, shall result, upon recalculation, in a fund reserve ratio used to determine employer contributions beginning July 1, 2000 of at least 3.00%. [Obeleted by amendment, P.L., c.)
- On or after July 1, 2001, notwithstanding any other (J) provisions of this paragraph (5), the contribution rate for each employer liable to pay contributions, as computed under subparagraph (E) of this paragraph (5), shall be decreased by 0.0175%, except that, during any experience rating year starting on or after July 1, 2001, in which the fund reserve ratio is equal to or greater than 3.5%, there shall be no decrease pursuant to this subparagraph (J) in the contribution of any employer who has a deficit reserve ratio of negative 35.00% or under. The amount of the reduction in the employer contributions stipulated by this subparagraph (J) shall be in addition to the amount of the reduction in the employer contributions stipulated by subparagraphs (G) and (H) of this paragraph (5), except that the rate of contribution of an employer who has a deficit reserve ratio of negative 35.0% or under shall not be reduced pursuant to this subparagraph (J) to less than 5.4% and the rate of contribution of any other employer shall not be reduced to less than 0.0%.
 - (K) With respect to experience rating years beginning on or after July 1, 2007, if the fund reserve ratio, based on the fund balance as of the prior March 31, is:
 - (1) Equal to or greater than 5.00% but less than 7.5%, the contribution rate for each employer liable to pay contributions, as computed under subparagraph (E) of this paragraph (5), shall be reduced by a factor of 25% computed to the nearest multiple of 1/10% if not already a multiple thereof except that there shall be no decrease pursuant to this subparagraph (K) in the contribution of any employer who has a deficit reserve ratio of 35.00% or under.
 - (2) Equal to or greater than 7.5% but less than 10.0%, the contribution rate for each employer liable to pay contributions, as computed under subparagraph (E) of this paragraph (5), shall be reduced by a factor of 50% computed to the nearest multiple of 1/10% if not already a multiple thereof except that there shall be no decrease pursuant to this subparagraph (K) in the contribution of any employer who has a deficit reserve ratio of 35.00% or under.
 - (6) Additional contributions.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any employer who has been assigned a contribution rate pursuant to subsection (c) of this section for the year commencing July 1, 1948, and for any year commencing July 1 thereafter, may voluntarily make payment of additional contributions, and upon such payment shall receive a

recomputation of the experience rate applicable to such employer, 1 2 including in the calculation the additional contribution so made, 3 except that, following a transfer as described under R.S.43:21-4 7(c)(7)(D), neither the predecessor nor successor in interest shall be 5 eligible to make a voluntary payment of additional contributions during the year the transfer occurs and the next full calendar year. 6 7 Any such additional contribution shall be made during the 30-day 8 period following the date of the mailing to the employer of the 9 notice of his contribution rate as prescribed in this section, unless, 10 for good cause, the time for payment has been extended by the 11 controller for not to exceed an additional 60 days; provided that in 12 no event may such payments which are made later than 120 days 13 after the beginning of the year for which such rates are effective be 14 considered in determining the experience rate for the year in which 15 the payment is made. Any employer receiving any extended period 16 of time within which to make such additional payment and failing 17 to make such payment timely shall be, in addition to the required 18 amount of additional payment, liable for a penalty of 5% thereof or 19 \$5.00, whichever is greater, not to exceed \$50.00. Any adjustment 20 under this subsection shall be made only in the form of credits 21 against accrued or future contributions.

(7) Transfers.

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(A) Upon the transfer of the organization, trade or business, or substantially all the assets of an employer to a successor in interest, whether by merger, consolidation, sale, transfer, descent or otherwise, the controller shall transfer the employment experience of the predecessor employer to the successor in interest, including credit for past years, contributions paid, annual payrolls, benefit charges, et cetera, applicable to such predecessor employer, pursuant to regulation, if it is determined that the employment experience of the predecessor employer with respect to the organization, trade, assets or business which has been transferred may be considered indicative of the future employment experience of the successor in interest. The successor in interest may, within four months of the date of such transfer of the organization, trade, assets or business, or thereafter upon good cause shown, request a reconsideration of the transfer of employment experience of the predecessor employer. The request for reconsideration shall demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the controller, that the employment experience of the predecessor is not indicative of the future employment experience of the successor.

(B) An employer who transfers part of his or its organization, trade, assets or business to a successor in interest, whether by merger, consolidation, sale, transfer, descent or otherwise, may jointly make application with such successor in interest for transfer of that portion of the employment experience of the predecessor employer relating to the portion of the organization, trade, assets or

business transferred to the successor in interest, including credit for past years, contributions paid, annual payrolls, benefit charges, et cetera, applicable to such predecessor employer. The transfer of employment experience may be allowed pursuant to regulation only if it is found that the employment experience of the predecessor employer with respect to the portion of the organization, trade, assets or business which has been transferred may be considered indicative of the future employment experience of the successor in interest. Credit shall be given to the successor in interest only for the years during which contributions were paid by the predecessor employer with respect to that part of the organization, trade, assets or business transferred.

- (C) A transfer of the employment experience in whole or in part having become final, the predecessor employer thereafter shall not be entitled to consideration for an adjusted rate based upon his or its experience or the part thereof, as the case may be, which has thus been transferred. A successor in interest to whom employment experience or a part thereof is transferred pursuant to this subsection shall, as of the date of the transfer of the organization, trade, assets or business, or part thereof, immediately become an employer if not theretofore an employer subject to this chapter (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.).
- (D) If an employer who transfers in whole or in part his or its organization, trade, assets or business to a successor in interest, whether by merger, consolidation, sale, transfer, descent or otherwise and both the employer and successor in interest are at the time of the transfer under common ownership, management or control, then the employment experience attributable to the transferred business shall also be transferred to and combined with the employment experience of the successor in interest. The transfer of the employment experience is mandatory and not subject to appeal or protest.
- (E) The transfer of part of an employer's employment experience to a successor in interest shall become effective as of the first day of the calendar quarter following the acquisition by the successor in interest. As of the effective date, the successor in interest shall have its employer rate recalculated by merging its existing employment experience, if any, with the employment experience acquired. If the successor in interest is not an employer as of the date of acquisition, it shall be assigned the new employer rate until the effective date of the transfer of employment experience.
- (F) Upon the transfer in whole or in part of the organization, trade, assets or business to a successor in interest, the employment experience shall not be transferred if the successor in interest is not an employer at the time of the acquisition and the controller finds that the successor in interest acquired the business solely or primarily for the purpose of obtaining a lower rate of contributions.

(d) Contributions of workers to the unemployment compensation fund and the State disability benefits fund.

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- 3 (1) (A) For periods after January 1, 1975, each worker shall 4 contribute to the fund 1% of his wages with respect to his 5 employment with an employer, which occurs on and after January 6 1, 1975, after such employer has satisfied the condition set forth in 7 subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19 with respect to becoming an 8 employer; provided, however, that such contributions shall be at the 9 rate of 1/2 of 1% of wages paid with respect to employment while 10 the worker is in the employ of the State of New Jersey, or any 11 governmental entity or instrumentality which is an employer as 12 defined under R.S.43:21-19(h)(5), or is covered by an approved 13 private plan under the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law" or 14 while the worker is exempt from the provisions of the "Temporary 15 Disability Benefits Law" under section 7 of that law, P.L.1948, 16 c.110 (C.43:21-31).
 - (B) Effective January 1, 1978 there shall be no contributions by workers in the employ of any governmental or nongovernmental employer electing or required to make payments in lieu of contributions unless the employer is covered by the State plan under the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law" (C.43:21-25 et seq.), and in that case contributions shall be at the rate of 1/2 of 1%, except that commencing July 1, 1986, workers in the employ of any nongovernmental employer electing or required to make payments in lieu of contributions shall be required to make contributions to the fund at the same rate prescribed for workers of other nongovernmental employers.
 - (C) (i) Notwithstanding the above provisions of this paragraph (1), during the period starting July 1, 1986 and ending December 31, 1992, each worker shall contribute to the fund 1.125% of wages paid with respect to his employment with a governmental employer electing or required to pay contributions or nongovernmental employer, including a nonprofit organization which is an employer as defined under R.S.43:21-19(h)(6), regardless of whether that nonprofit organization elects or is required to finance its benefit costs with contributions to the fund or by payments in lieu of contributions, after that employer has satisfied the conditions set forth in subsection R.S.43:21-19(h) with respect to becoming an employer. Contributions, however, shall be at the rate of 0.625% while the worker is covered by an approved private plan under the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law" while the worker is exempt under section 7 of that law, P.L.1948, c.110 (C.43:21-31) or any other provision of that law; provided that such contributions shall be at the rate of 0.625% of wages paid with respect to employment with the State of New Jersey or any other governmental entity or instrumentality electing or required to make payments in lieu of contributions and which is covered by the State plan under the

- 1 "Temporary Disability Benefits Law," except that, while the worker
- 2 is exempt from the provisions of the "Temporary Disability Benefits
- 3 Law" under section 7 of that law, P.L.1948, c.110 (C.43:21-31) or
- 4 any other provision of that law, or is covered for disability benefits
- 5 by an approved private plan of the employer, the contributions to
- 6 the fund shall be 0.125%.

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- (ii) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1995, c.422.)
- 8 (D) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this paragraph (1), 9 during the period starting January 1, 1993 and ending June 30, 10 1994, each worker shall contribute to the unemployment 11 compensation fund 0.5% of wages paid with respect to the worker's 12 employment with a governmental employer electing or required to 13 pay contributions or nongovernmental employer, including a 14 nonprofit organization which is an employer as defined under 15 paragraph (6) of subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19, regardless of 16 whether that nonprofit organization elects or is required to finance 17 its benefit costs with contributions to the fund or by payments in 18 lieu of contributions, after that employer has satisfied the conditions 19 set forth in subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19 with respect to becoming 20 an employer. No contributions, however, shall be made by the 21 worker while the worker is covered by an approved private plan 22 under the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law," P.L.1948, c.110 23 (C.43:21-25 et seq.) or while the worker is exempt under section 7 24 of P.L.1948, c.110 (C.43:21-31) or any other provision of that law; 25 provided that the contributions shall be at the rate of 0.50% of 26 wages paid with respect to employment with the State of New 27 Jersey or any other governmental entity or instrumentality electing or required to make payments in lieu of contributions and which is 28 29 covered by the State plan under the "Temporary Disability Benefits 30 Law," except that, while the worker is exempt from the provisions 31 of the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law" under section 7 of that 32 law, P.L.1948, c.110 (C.43:21-31) or any other provision of that 33 law, or is covered for disability benefits by an approved private plan 34 of the employer, no contributions shall be made to the fund.

Each worker shall, starting on January 1, 1996 and ending March 31, 1996, contribute to the unemployment compensation fund 0.60% of wages paid with respect to the worker's employment with a governmental employer electing or required to pay contributions or nongovernmental employer, including a nonprofit organization which is an employer as defined under paragraph (6) of subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19, regardless of whether that nonprofit organization elects or is required to finance its benefit costs with contributions to the fund or by payments in lieu of contributions, after that employer has satisfied the conditions set forth in subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19 with respect to becoming an employer, provided that the contributions shall be at the rate of 0.10% of wages paid with respect to employment with the State of

New Jersey or any other governmental entity or instrumentality electing or required to make payments in lieu of contributions.

Each worker shall, starting on January 1, 1998 and ending December 31, 1998, contribute to the unemployment compensation fund 0.10% of wages paid with respect to the worker's employment with a governmental employer electing or required to pay contributions or nongovernmental employer, including a nonprofit organization which is an employer as defined under paragraph (6) of subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19, regardless of whether that nonprofit organization elects or is required to finance its benefit costs with contributions to the fund or by payments in lieu of contributions, after that employer has satisfied the conditions set forth in subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19 with respect to becoming an employer, provided that the contributions shall be at the rate of 0.10% of wages paid with respect to employment with the State of New Jersey or any other governmental entity or instrumentality electing or required to make payments in lieu of contributions.

Each worker shall, starting on January 1, 1999 until December 31, 1999, contribute to the unemployment compensation fund 0.15% of wages paid with respect to the worker's employment with a governmental employer electing or required to pay contributions or nongovernmental employer, including a nonprofit organization which is an employer as defined under paragraph (6) of subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19, regardless of whether that nonprofit organization elects or is required to finance its benefit costs with contributions to the fund or by payments in lieu of contributions, after that employer has satisfied the conditions set forth in subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19 with respect to becoming an employer, provided that the contributions shall be at the rate of 0.10% of wages paid with respect to employment with the State of New Jersey or any other governmental entity or instrumentality electing or required to make payments in lieu of contributions.

Each worker shall, starting on January 1, 2000 until December 31, 2001, contribute to the unemployment compensation fund 0.20% of wages paid with respect to the worker's employment with a governmental employer electing or required to pay contributions or nongovernmental employer, including a nonprofit organization which is an employer as defined under paragraph (6) of subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19, regardless of whether that nonprofit organization elects or is required to finance its benefit costs with contributions to the fund or by payments in lieu of contributions, after that employer has satisfied the conditions set forth in subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19 with respect to becoming an employer, provided that the contributions shall be at the rate of 0.10% of wages paid with respect to employment with the State of New Jersey or any other governmental entity or instrumentality electing or required to make payments in lieu of contributions.

Each worker shall, starting on January 1, 2002 until June 30, 2004, contribute to the unemployment compensation fund 0.1825% of wages paid with respect to the worker's employment with a governmental employer electing or required to pay contributions or a nongovernmental employer, including a nonprofit organization which is an employer as defined under paragraph (6) of subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19, regardless of whether that nonprofit organization elects or is required to finance its benefit costs with contributions to the fund or by payments in lieu of contributions, after that employer has satisfied the conditions set forth in subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19 with respect to becoming an employer, provided that the contributions shall be at the rate of 0.0825% of wages paid with respect to employment with the State of New Jersey or any other governmental entity or instrumentality electing or required to make payments in lieu of contributions.

Each worker shall, starting on and after July 1, 2004, contribute to the unemployment compensation fund 0.3825% of wages paid with respect to the worker's employment with a governmental employer electing or required to pay contributions nongovernmental employer, including a nonprofit organization which is an employer as defined under paragraph (6) of subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19, regardless of whether that nonprofit organization elects or is required to finance its benefit costs with contributions to the fund or by payments in lieu of contributions, after that employer has satisfied the conditions set forth in subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19 with respect to becoming an employer, provided that the contributions shall be at the rate of 0.0825% of wages paid with respect to employment with the State of New Jersey or any other governmental entity or instrumentality electing or required to make payments in lieu of contributions.

- (E) Each employer shall, notwithstanding any provision of law in this State to the contrary, withhold in trust the amount of his workers' contributions from their wages at the time such wages are paid, shall show such deduction on his payroll records, shall furnish such evidence thereof to his workers as the division or controller may prescribe, and shall transmit all such contributions, in addition to his own contributions, to the office of the controller in such manner and at such times as may be prescribed. If any employer fails to deduct the contributions of any of his workers at the time their wages are paid, or fails to make a deduction therefor at the time wages are paid for the next succeeding payroll period, he alone shall thereafter be liable for such contributions, and for the purpose of R.S.43:21-14, such contributions shall be treated as employer's contributions required from him.
- (F) As used in this chapter (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.), except when the context clearly requires otherwise, the term "contributions" shall include the contributions of workers pursuant to this section.

- (G) Each worker shall, starting on July 1, 1994, contribute to the 1 2 State disability benefits fund an amount equal to 0.50% of wages 3 paid with respect to the worker's employment with a government 4 employer electing or required to pay contributions to the State 5 disability benefits fund or nongovernmental employer, including a 6 nonprofit organization which is an employer as defined under 7 paragraph (6) of subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19, unless the 8 employer is covered by an approved private disability plan or is 9 exempt from the provisions of the "Temporary Disability Benefits 10 Law," P.L.1948, c.110 (C.43:21-25 et seq.) under section 7 of that 11 law (C.43:21-31) or any other provision of that law.
- 12 (2) (A) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1984, c.24.)
- 13 (B) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1984, c.24.)

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- (C) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1994, c.112.)
- 15 (D) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1994, c.112.)
- 16 (E) (i) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1994, c.112.)
- (ii) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1996, c.28.)
- 18 (iii) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1994, c.112.)
 - (3) If an employee receives wages from more than one employer during any calendar year, and either the sum of his contributions deposited in and credited to the State disability benefits fund plus the amount of his contributions, if any, required towards the costs of benefits under one or more approved private plans under the provisions of section 9 of the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law" (C.43:21-33) and deducted from his wages, or the sum of such latter contributions, if the employee is covered during such calendar year only by two or more private plans, exceeds an amount equal to 1/2 of 1% of the "wages" determined in accordance with the provisions of R.S.43:21-7(b)(3) during the calendar years beginning on or after January 1, 1976, the employee shall be entitled to a refund of the excess if he makes a claim to the controller within two years after the end of the calendar year in which the wages are received with respect to which the refund is claimed and establishes his right to such refund. Such refund shall be made by the controller from the State disability benefits fund. No interest shall be allowed or paid with respect to any such refund. The controller shall, in accordance with prescribed regulations, determine the portion of the aggregate amount of such refunds made during any calendar year which is applicable to private plans for which deductions were made under section 9 of the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law" (C.43:21-33) such determination to be based upon the ratio of the amount of such wages exempt from contributions to such fund, as provided in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) of this subsection with respect to coverage under private plans, to the total wages so exempt plus the amount of such wages subject to contributions to the disability benefits fund, as provided in subparagraph (G) of paragraph (1) of this subsection. The controller shall, in accordance with prescribed

regulations, prorate the amount so determined among the applicable private plans in the proportion that the wages covered by each plan bear to the total private plan wages involved in such refunds, and shall assess against and recover from the employer, or the insurer if the insurer has indemnified the employer with respect thereto, the amount so prorated. The provisions of R.S.43:21-14 with respect to collection of employer contributions shall apply to such assessments. The amount so recovered by the controller shall be paid into the State disability benefits fund.

- (4) If an individual does not receive any wages from the employing unit which for the purposes of this chapter (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.) is treated as his employer, or receives his wages from some other employing unit, such employer shall nevertheless be liable for such individual's contributions in the first instance; and after payment thereof such employer may deduct the amount of such contributions from any sums payable by him to such employing unit, or may recover the amount of such contributions from such employing unit, or, in the absence of such an employing unit, from such individual, in a civil action; provided proceedings therefor are instituted within three months after the date on which such contributions are payable. General rules shall be prescribed whereby such an employing unit may recover the amount of such contributions from such individuals in the same manner as if it were the employer.
- (5) Every employer who has elected to become an employer subject to this chapter (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.), or to cease to be an employer subject to this chapter (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.), pursuant to the provisions of R.S.43:21-8, shall post and maintain printed notices of such election on his premises, of such design, in such numbers, and at such places as the director may determine to be necessary to give notice thereof to persons in his service.
- (6) Contributions by workers, payable to the controller as herein provided, shall be exempt from garnishment, attachment, execution, or any other remedy for the collection of debts.
 - (e) Contributions by employers to State disability benefits fund.
- (1) Except as hereinafter provided, each employer shall, in addition to the contributions required by subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this section, contribute 1/2 of 1% of the wages paid by such employer to workers with respect to employment unless he is not a covered employer as defined in section 3 of the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law" (C.43:21-27 (a)), except that the rate for the State of New Jersey shall be 1/10 of 1% for the calendar year 1980 and for the first six months of 1981. Prior to July 1, 1981 and prior to July 1 each year thereafter, the controller shall review the experience accumulated in the account of the State of New Jersey and establish a rate for the next following fiscal year which, in combination with worker contributions, will produce sufficient

- revenue to keep the account in balance; except that the rate so established shall not be less than 1/10 of 1%. Such contributions shall become due and be paid by the employer to the controller for the State disability benefits fund as established by law, in accordance with such regulations as may be prescribed, and shall not be deducted, in whole or in part, from the remuneration of individuals in his employ. In the payment of any contributions, a fractional part of a cent shall be disregarded unless it amounts to \$0.005 or more, in which case it shall be increased to \$0.01.
 - (2) During the continuance of coverage of a worker by an approved private plan of disability benefits under the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law," the employer shall be exempt from the contributions required by subparagraph (1) above with respect to wages paid to such worker.
 - (3) (A) The rates of contribution as specified in subparagraph (1) above shall be subject to modification as provided herein with respect to employer contributions due on and after July 1, 1951.
 - (B) A separate disability benefits account shall be maintained for each employer required to contribute to the State disability benefits fund and such account shall be credited with contributions deposited in and credited to such fund with respect to employment occurring on and after January 1, 1949. Each employer's account shall be credited with all contributions paid on or before January 31 of any calendar year on his own behalf and on behalf of individuals in his service with respect to employment occurring in preceding calendar years; provided, however, that if January 31 of any calendar year falls on a Saturday or Sunday an employer's account shall be credited as of January 31 of such calendar year with all the contributions which he has paid on or before the next succeeding day which is not a Saturday or Sunday. But nothing in this act shall be construed to grant any employer or individuals in his service prior claims or rights to the amounts paid by him to the fund either on his own behalf or on behalf of such individuals. Benefits paid to any covered individual in accordance with Article III of the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law" on or before December 31 of any calendar year with respect to disability in such calendar year and in preceding calendar years shall be charged against the account of the employer by whom such individual was employed at the commencement of such disability or by whom he was last employed, if out of employment.
 - (C) The controller may prescribe regulations for the establishment, maintenance, and dissolution of joint accounts by two or more employers, and shall, in accordance with such regulations and upon application by two or more employers to establish such an account, or to merge their several individual accounts in a joint account, maintain such joint account as if it constituted a single employer's account.

1 (D) Prior to July 1 of each calendar year, the controller shall 2 make a preliminary determination of the rate of contribution for the 3 12 months commencing on such July 1 for each employer subject to 4 the contribution requirements of this subsection (e).

- (1) Such preliminary rate shall be 1/2 of 1% unless on the preceding January 31 of such year such employer shall have been a covered employer who has paid contributions to the State disability benefits fund with respect to employment in the three calendar years immediately preceding such year.
- (2) If the minimum requirements in (1) above have been fulfilled and the credited contributions exceed the benefits charged by more than \$500.00, such preliminary rate shall be as follows:
- (i) 2/10 of 1% if such excess over \$500.00 exceeds 1% but is less than 1 1/4% of his average annual payroll as defined in this chapter (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.);
- (ii) 15/100 of 1% if such excess over \$500.00 equals or exceeds 1 1/4% but is less than 1 1/2% of his average annual payroll;
- (iii) 1/10 of 1% if such excess over \$500.00 equals or exceeds 1 1/2% of his average annual payroll.
- (3) If the minimum requirements in (1) above have been fulfilled and the contributions credited exceed the benefits charged but by not more than \$500.00 plus 1% of his average annual payroll, or if the benefits charged exceed the contributions credited but by not more than \$500.00, the preliminary rate shall be 1/4 of 1%.
- (4) If the minimum requirements in (1) above have been fulfilled and the benefits charged exceed the contributions credited by more than \$500.00, such preliminary rate shall be as follows:
- (i) 35/100 of 1% if such excess over \$500.00 is less than 1/4 of 1% of his average annual payroll;
- (ii) 45/100 of 1% if such excess over \$500.00 equals or exceeds 1/4 of 1% but is less than 1/2 of 1% of his average annual payroll;
- (iii) 55/100 of 1% if such excess over \$500.00 equals or exceeds 1/2 of 1% but is less than 3/4 of 1% of his average annual payroll;
- (iv) 65/100 of 1% if such excess over \$500.00 equals or exceeds 3/4 of 1% but is less than 1% of his average annual payroll;
- (v) 75/100 of 1% if such excess over \$500.00 equals or exceeds 1% of his average annual payroll.
 - (5) Determination of the preliminary rate as specified in (2), (3) and (4) above shall be subject, however, to the condition that it shall in no event be decreased by more than 1/10 of 1% of wages or increased by more than 2/10 of 1% of wages from the preliminary rate determined for the preceding year in accordance with (1), (2), (3) or (4), whichever shall have been applicable.
- 45 (E) (1) Prior to July 1 of each calendar year the controller shall 46 determine the amount of the State disability benefits fund as of 47 December 31 of the preceding calendar year, increased by the

- contributions paid thereto during January of the current calendar year with respect to employment occurring in the preceding calendar year. If such amount exceeds the net amount withdrawn from the unemployment trust fund pursuant to section 23 of the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law," P.L.1948, c.110 (C.43:21-47) plus the amount at the end of such preceding calendar year of the unemployment disability account as defined in section 22 of said law (C.43:21-46), such excess shall be expressed as a percentage of the wages on which contributions were paid to the State disability benefits fund on or before January 31 with respect to employment in the preceding calendar year.
 - (2) The controller shall then make a final determination of the rates of contribution for the 12 months commencing July 1 of such year for employers whose preliminary rates are determined as provided in (D) hereof, as follows:

- (i) If the percentage determined in accordance with paragraph (E)(1) of this subsection equals or exceeds 1 1/4%, the final employer rates shall be the preliminary rates determined as provided in (D) hereof, except that if the employer's preliminary rate is determined as provided in (D)(2) or (D)(3) hereof, the final employer rate shall be the preliminary employer rate decreased by such percentage of excess taken to the nearest 5/100 of 1%, but in no case shall such final rate be less than 1/10 of 1%.
- (ii) If the percentage determined in accordance with paragraph (E)(1) of this subsection equals or exceeds 3/4 of 1% and is less than 1 1/4 of 1%, the final employer rates shall be the preliminary employer rates.
- (iii) If the percentage determined in accordance with paragraph (E)(1) of this subsection is less than 3/4 of 1%, but in excess of 1/4 of 1%, the final employer rates shall be the preliminary employer rates determined as provided in (D) hereof increased by the difference between 3/4 of 1% and such percentage taken to the nearest 5/100 of 1%; provided, however, that no such final rate shall be more than 1/4 of 1% in the case of an employer whose preliminary rate is determined as provided in (D)(2) hereof, more than 1/2 of 1% in the case of an employer whose preliminary rate is determined as provided in (D)(1) and (D)(3) hereof, nor more than 3/4 of 1% in the case of an employer whose preliminary rate is determined as provided in (D)(4) hereof.
- (iv) If the amount of the State disability benefits fund determined as provided in paragraph (E)(1) of this subsection is equal to or less than 1/4 of 1%, then the final rate shall be 2/5 of 1% in the case of an employer whose preliminary rate is determined as provided in (D)(2) hereof, 7/10 of 1% in the case of an employer whose preliminary rate is determined as provided in (D)(1) and (D)(3) hereof, and 1.1% in the case of an employer whose preliminary rate is determined as provided in (D)(4) hereof.

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Notwithstanding any other provision of law or any determination 1 2 made by the controller with respect to any 12-month period 3 commencing on July 1, 1970, the final rates for all employers for 4 the period beginning January 1, 1971, shall be as set forth herein. 5 (cf: P.L.2005, c.249, s.1) 6 7 2. This act shall take effect immediately. 8 9 10 **STATEMENT** 11 12 This bill provides new, reduced unemployment insurance (UI) 13 tax schedules when the reserve ratio of the State's UI trust fund 14 exceeds 5.0%, which would represent a UI fund balance of \$3.6 15 billion in 2007. For any experience rating year beginning on or after July 1, 2007, the bill would reduce UI taxes by 25% from the 16 rates provided under the "A" UI tax schedule if the ratio exceeds 17 18 5.0% and reduce the taxes by 50% if the ratio exceeds 7.5%. The "reserve ratio" means the UI trust fund balance as of March 31 as a 19 20 percentage of all wages subject to UI taxes during the prior calendar 21 year. 22 Aside from the direct employer benefit of reduced UI taxes, this 23 would help to prevent an excessive build up in the UI fund balance 24 during periods of growth and high employment, thus reducing the 25 likelihood of the redirection of UI tax revenues to other purposes. 26 The most recent redirection of UI tax revenues, totaling \$1.5 billion to the Health Care Subsidy Fund from 2002 to 2005, occurred after 27 28 UI reserve ratios exceeding 5.0% every year of the 1990's resulted, 29 in 2001, in a record high UI fund balance of \$3.5 billion and a

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reserve ratio of 6.0%.

SENATE LABOR COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 562

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 6, 2008

The Senate Labor Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 562.

This bill provides new, reduced unemployment insurance (UI) tax schedules when the reserve ratio of the State's UI trust fund exceeds 5.0%, which would represent a UI fund balance of \$3.7 billion in 2008. For any experience rating year beginning on or after July 1, 2009, the bill would reduce UI taxes by 25% from the rates provided under the "A" UI tax schedule if the ratio exceeds 5.0% and reduce the taxes by 50% if the ratio exceeds 7.5%. The "reserve ratio" means the UI trust fund balance as of March 31 as a percentage of all wages subject to UI taxes during the prior calendar year.

Aside from the direct employer benefit of reduced UI taxes, this would help to prevent an excessive build up in the UI fund balance during periods of growth and high employment, thus reducing the likelihood of the redirection of UI tax revenues to other purposes. The most recent redirection of UI tax revenues, totaling \$1.5 billion to the Health Care Subsidy Fund from 2002 to 2005, occurred after UI reserve ratios exceeding 5.0% every year of the 1990's resulted, in 2001, in a record high UI fund balance of \$3.5 billion and a reserve ratio of 6.0%

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2008-2009 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 562

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 19, 2008

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 562.

This bill provides new, reduced unemployment insurance (UI) tax schedules when the reserve ratio of the State's UI trust fund exceeds 5.0%, which would represent a UI trust fund balance of \$3.7 billion in 2008. For any experience rating year beginning on or after July 1, 2009, the bill would reduce UI taxes by 25% from the rates provided under the "A" UI tax schedule if the ratio exceeds 5.0% and reduce the taxes by 50% if the ratio exceeds 7.5%. The "reserve ratio" means the UI trust fund balance as of March 31 as a percentage of all wages subject to UI taxes during the prior calendar year.

This bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 1503.

FISCAL IMPACT:

According to information provided by the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD), the estimated UI trust fund balance on March 31, 2008 was \$977.3 million, yielding a fund "reserve ratio" on that date of 1.35%. (The "reserve ratio" is the UI trust fund balance as of March 31 of a given year as a percentage of all wages subject to UI taxes during the prior calendar year.) In order to meet the 5% reserve ratio threshold required to trigger the tax reduction proposed by this bill, the balance of the UI fund would need to grow by \$2.5 billion to reach approximately \$3.7 billion. Current projections by the DOLWD for the UI fund balance indicate that for 2009, 2010, and 2011, the UI trust fund will not have a reserve ratio above 1.5%. Based on these projections, the Office of Legislative Services notes that it is extremely unlikely that the reduction in rates provided under this bill would be triggered through at least 2011.

ASSEMBLY BUDGET COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 562

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 15, 2009

The Assembly Budget Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 562.

The bill provides new, reduced unemployment insurance (UI) tax schedules when the reserve ratio of the State's UI trust fund exceeds 5.0%, which would represent a UI trust fund balance of \$3.7 billion in 2008. For any experience rating year beginning on or after July 1, 2009, the bill would reduce UI taxes by 25% from the rates provided under the "A" UI tax schedule if the ratio exceeds 5.0% and reduce the taxes by 50% if the ratio exceeds 7.5%. The "reserve ratio" means the UI trust fund balance as of March 31 as a percentage of all wages subject to UI taxes during the prior calendar year.

This bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 1503, as also reported by the committee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

According to information provided by the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD), the estimated UI trust fund balance on March 31, 2008 was \$977.3 million, yielding a fund "reserve ratio" on that date of 1.35%. (The "reserve ratio" is the UI trust fund balance as of March 31 of a given year as a percentage of all wages subject to UI taxes during the prior calendar year.) In order to meet the 5% reserve ratio threshold required to trigger the tax reduction proposed by this bill, the balance of the UI fund would need to grow by \$2.5 billion to reach approximately \$3.7 billion. Current projections by the DOLWD for the UI fund balance indicate that for 2009, 2010, and 2011, the UI trust fund will not have a reserve ratio above 1.5%. Based on these projections, the Office of Legislative Services notes that it is extremely unlikely that the reduction in rates provided under this bill would be triggered through at least 2011.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE SENATE, No. 562 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 213th LEGISLATURE

DATED: MAY 19, 2008

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Provides triggers for reductions of employer unemployment insurance

taxes.

Type of Impact: None, in the next three years.

Agencies Affected: Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3			
Unemployment						
Insurance Fund		No Impact-See comments below				

• The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that Senate Bill No. 562 will result in no loss of revenue for the Unemployment Insurance Fund because the circumstances needed to trigger the decrease in employer tax contributions are extremely unlikely to occur in the next three years.

BILL DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill No. 562 of 2008 provides new, reduced unemployment insurance (UI) tax schedules when the reserve ratio of the State's UI trust fund exceeds 5.0 percent, which would represent a UI fund balance of \$3.7 billion in 2008. For any experience rating year beginning on or after July 1, 2009, the bill would reduce UI taxes by 25 percent from the rates provided under the "A" UI tax schedule if the ratio exceeds 5.0 percent and reduce the taxes by 50 percent if the ratio exceeds 7.5 percent. The "reserve ratio" means the UI trust fund balance as of March 31 of a given year as a percentage of all wages subject to UI taxes during the prior calendar year.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.



OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The Office of Legislative Services estimates that Senate Bill No. 562 will result in no loss of revenue for the Unemployment Insurance (UI) fund because the circumstances needed to trigger the decrease in employer tax contribution are extremely unlikely to occur in the next three years.

The department estimates that the UI fund balance on March 31, 2008 is \$977.3 million. This balance results in a "reserve ratio" of 1.35 percent. The "reserve ratio" is the UI trust fund balance as of March 31 of a given year as a percentage of all wages subject to UI taxes during the prior calendar year. Current projections for the UI fund balance indicate that for 2009, 2010, and 2011 the UI fund will not have a reserve ratio above 1.5 percent.

In order to meet the 5 percent reserve ratio threshold to trigger the tax reduction as proposed under S-562, the balance of the UI fund would need to grow by \$2.5 billion to reach approximately \$3.7 billion. It is extremely unlikely, given the current tax rate and the estimates for the fund balance, that the reserve ratio of the UI fund will grow by this amount and meet the 5 percent threshold to trigger the tax reduction in the next three years.

Section: Commerce, Labor and Industry

Analyst: Robin C. Ford

Assistant Fiscal Analyst

Approved: David J. Rosen

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-1 et seq.).

ASSEMBLY, No. 1503

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

213th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2008 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOHN J. BURZICHELLI District 3 (Salem, Cumberland and Gloucester) Assemblyman NELSON T. ALBANO District 1 (Cape May, Atlantic and Cumberland)

SYNOPSIS

Provides triggers for reductions of employer unemployment insurance taxes.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



AN ACT concerning employer contributions to the unemployment 2 compensation fund and amending R.S.43:21-7.

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

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- 1. R.S.43:21-7 is amended to read as follows:
- 8 Contributions. Employers other than governmental 9 entities, whose benefit financing provisions are set forth in section 4 10 of P.L.1971, c.346 (C.43:21-7.3), and those nonprofit organizations 11 liable for payment in lieu of contributions on the basis set forth in 12 section 3 of P.L.1971, c.346 (C.43:21-7.2), shall pay to the 13 controller for the unemployment compensation fund, contributions 14 as set forth in subsections (a), (b) and (c) hereof, and the provisions 15 of subsections (d) and (e) shall be applicable to all employers, consistent with the provisions of the "unemployment compensation 16 17 law" and the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law," P.L.1948, c.110 18 (C.43:21-25 et seq.).
 - (a) Payment.
 - (1) Contributions shall accrue and become payable by each employer for each calendar year in which he is subject to this chapter (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.), with respect to having individuals in his employ during that calendar year, at the rates and on the basis hereinafter set forth. Such contributions shall become due and be paid by each employer to the controller for the fund, in accordance with such regulations as may be prescribed, and shall not be deducted, in whole or in part, from the remuneration of individuals in his employ.
 - (2) In the payment of any contributions, a fractional part of a cent shall be disregarded unless it amounts to \$0.005 or more, in which case it shall be increased to \$0.01.
 - (b) Rate of contributions. Each employer shall pay the following contributions:
 - (1) For the calendar year 1947, and each calendar year thereafter, 2 7/10% of wages paid by him during each such calendar year, except as otherwise prescribed by subsection (c) of this section.
 - (2) The "wages" of any individual, with respect to any one employer, as the term is used in this subsection (b) and in subsections (c), (d) and (e) of this section 7, shall include the first \$4,800.00 paid during calendar year 1975, for services performed either within or without this State; provided that no contribution shall be required by this State with respect to services performed in another state if such other state imposes contribution liability with respect thereto. If an employer (hereinafter referred to as a

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

1 successor employer) during any calendar year acquires substantially 2 all the property used in a trade or business of another employer 3 (hereinafter referred to as a predecessor), or used in a separate unit 4 of a trade or business of a predecessor, and immediately after the 5 acquisition employs in his trade or business an individual who 6 immediately prior to the acquisition was employed in the trade or 7 business of such predecessors, then, for the purpose of determining 8 whether the successor employer has paid wages with respect to 9 employment equal to the first \$4,800.00 paid during calendar year 10 1975, any wages paid to such individual by such predecessor during 11 such calendar year and prior to such acquisition shall be considered 12 as having been paid by such successor employer.

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- (3) For calendar years beginning on and after January 1, 1976, the "wages" of any individual, as defined in the preceding paragraph (2) of this subsection (b), shall be established and promulgated by the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development on or before September 1 of the preceding year and shall be, 28 times the Statewide average weekly remuneration paid to workers by employers, as determined under R.S.43:21-3(c), raised to the next higher multiple of \$100.00 if not already a multiple thereof, provided that if the amount of wages so determined for a calendar year is less than the amount similarly determined for the preceding year, the greater amount will be used; provided, further, that if the amount of such wages so determined does not equal or exceed the amount of wages as defined in subsection (b) of section 3306 of the Federal Unemployment Tax Act, Chapter 23 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. s.3306(b)), the wages as determined in this paragraph in any calendar year shall be raised to equal the amount established under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act for that calendar year.
 - (c) Future rates based on benefit experience.
- (1) A separate account for each employer shall be maintained and this shall be credited with all the contributions which he has paid on his own behalf on or before January 31 of any calendar year with respect to employment occurring in the preceding calendar year; provided, however, that if January 31 of any calendar year falls on a Saturday or Sunday, an employer's account shall be credited as of January 31 of such calendar year with all the contributions which he has paid on or before the next succeeding day which is not a Saturday or Sunday. But nothing in this chapter (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.) shall be construed to grant any employer or individuals in his service prior claims or rights to the amounts paid by him into the fund either on his own behalf or on behalf of such Benefits paid with respect to benefit years individuals. commencing on and after January 1, 1953, to any individual on or before December 31 of any calendar year with respect to unemployment in such calendar year and in preceding calendar

years shall be charged against the account or accounts of the employer or employers in whose employment such individual established base weeks constituting the basis of such benefits, except that, with respect to benefit years commencing after January 4, 1998, an employer's account shall not be charged for benefits paid to a claimant if the claimant's employment by that employer was ended in any way which, pursuant to subsection (a), (b), (c), (f), (g) or (h) of R.S.43:21-5, would have disqualified the claimant for benefits if the claimant had applied for benefits at the time when that employment ended. Benefits paid under a given benefit determination shall be charged against the account of the employer to whom such determination relates. When each benefit payment is made, either a copy of the benefit check or other form of notification shall be promptly sent to the employer against whose account the benefits are to be charged. Such copy or notification shall identify the employer against whose account the amount of such payment is being charged, shall show at least the name and social security account number of the claimant and shall specify the period of unemployment to which said check applies. If the total amount of benefits paid to a claimant and charged to the account of the appropriate employer exceeds 50% of the total base year, base week wages paid to the claimant by that employer, then such employer shall have canceled from his account such excess benefit charges as specified above.

Each employer shall be furnished an annual summary statement of benefits charged to his account.

- (2) Regulations may be prescribed for the establishment, maintenance, and dissolution of joint accounts by two or more employers, and shall, in accordance with such regulations and upon application by two or more employers to establish such an account, or to merge their several individual accounts in a joint account, maintain such joint account as if it constituted a single employer's account.
- (3) No employer's rate shall be lower than 5.4% unless assignment of such lower rate is consistent with the conditions applicable to additional credit allowance for such year under section 3303(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. s.3303(a)(1)), any other provision of this section to the contrary notwithstanding.
- (4) Employer Reserve Ratio. (A) Each employer's rate shall be 2 8/10%, except as otherwise provided in the following provisions. No employer's rate for the 12 months commencing July 1 of any calendar year shall be other than 2 8/10%, unless as of the preceding January 31 such employer shall have paid contributions with respect to wages paid in each of the three calendar years immediately preceding such year, in which case such employer's rate for the 12 months commencing July 1 of any calendar year

shall be determined on the basis of his record up to the beginning of such calendar year. If, at the beginning of such calendar year, the total of all his contributions, paid on his own behalf, for all past years exceeds the total benefits charged to his account for all such years, his contribution rate shall be:

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- (1) 2 5/10%, if such excess equals or exceeds 4%, but less than 5%, of his average annual payroll (as defined in paragraph (2), subsection (a) of R.S.43:21-19);
- 9 (2) 2 2/10%, if such excess equals or exceeds 5%, but is less than 6%, of his average annual payroll;
 - (3) 1 9/10%, if such excess equals or exceeds 6%, but is less than 7%, of his average annual payroll;
 - (4) 1 6/10%, if such excess equals or exceeds 7%, but is less than 8%, of his average annual payroll;
- 15 (5) 1 3/10%, if such excess equals or exceeds 8%, but is less than 9%, of his average annual payroll;
- 17 (6) 1%, if such excess equals or exceeds 9%, but is less than 18 10%, of his average annual payroll;
 - (7) 7/10 of 1%, if such excess equals or exceeds 10%, but is less than 11%, of his average annual payroll;
 - (8) 4/10 of 1%, if such excess equals or exceeds 11% of his average annual payroll.
 - (B) If the total of an employer's contributions, paid on his own behalf, for all past periods for the purposes of this paragraph (4), is less than the total benefits charged against his account during the same period, his rate shall be:
- 27 (1) 4%, if such excess is less than 10% of his average annual 28 payroll;
 - (2) 4 3/10%, if such excess equals or exceeds 10%, but is less than 20%, of his average annual payroll;
 - (3) 4 6/10%, if such excess equals or exceeds 20% of his average annual payroll.
 - (C) Specially assigned rates.
 - (i) If no contributions were paid on wages for employment in any calendar year used in determining the average annual payroll of an employer eligible for an assigned rate under this paragraph (4), the employer's rate shall be specially assigned as follows:
 - if the reserve balance in its account is positive, its assigned rate shall be the highest rate in effect for positive balance accounts for that period, or 5.4%, whichever is higher, and
- if the reserve balance in its account is negative, its assigned rate shall be the highest rate in effect for deficit accounts for that period.
- 43 (ii) If, following the purchase of a corporation with little or no 44 activity, known as a corporate shell, the resulting employing unit 45 operates a new or different business activity, the employing unit 46 shall be assigned a new employer rate.

(iii) Entities operating under common ownership, management or control, when the operation of the entities is not identifiable, distinguishable and severable, shall be considered a single employer for the purposes of this chapter (R.S. 43:21-1 et seq.).

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- (D) The contribution rates prescribed by subparagraphs (A) and (B) of this paragraph (4) shall be increased or decreased in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (5) of this subsection (c) for experience rating periods through June 30, 1986.
- (5) (A) Unemployment Trust Fund Reserve Ratio. If on March 31 of any calendar year the balance in the unemployment trust fund equals or exceeds 4% but is less than 7% of the total taxable wages reported to the controller as of that date in respect to employment during the preceding calendar year, the contribution rate, effective July 1 following, of each employer eligible for a contribution rate calculation based upon benefit experience, shall be increased by 3/10 of 1% over the contribution rate otherwise established under the provisions of paragraph (3) or (4) of this subsection. If on March 31 of any calendar year the balance of the unemployment trust fund exceeds 2 1/2% but is less than 4% of the total taxable wages reported to the controller as of that date in respect to employment during the preceding calendar year, the contribution rate, effective July 1 following, of each employer eligible for a contribution rate calculation based upon benefit experience, shall be increased by 6/10 of 1% over the contribution rate otherwise established under the provisions of paragraph (3) or (4) of this subsection.

If on March 31 of any calendar year the balance of the unemployment trust fund is less than 2 1/2% of the total taxable wages reported to the controller as of that date in respect to employment during the preceding calendar year, the contribution rate, effective July 1 following, of each employer (1) eligible for a contribution rate calculation based upon benefit experience, shall be increased by (i) 6/10 of 1% over the contribution rate otherwise established under the provisions of paragraph (3), (4)(A) or (4)(B) of this subsection, and (ii) an additional amount equal to 20% of the total rate established herein, provided, however, that the final contribution rate for each employer shall be computed to the nearest multiple of 1/10% if not already a multiple thereof; (2) not eligible for a contribution rate calculation based upon benefit experience, shall be increased by 6/10 of 1% over the contribution rate otherwise established under the provisions of paragraph (4) of this subsection. For the period commencing July 1, 1984 and ending June 30, 1986, the contribution rate for each employer liable to pay contributions under R.S.43:21-7 shall be increased by a factor of 10% computed to the nearest multiple of 1/10% if not already a multiple thereof.

- (B) If on March 31 of any calendar year the balance in the 1 2 unemployment trust fund equals or exceeds 10% but is less than 12 3 1/2% of the total taxable wages reported to the controller as of that 4 date in respect to employment during the preceding calendar year, 5 the contribution rate, effective July 1 following, of each employer 6 eligible for a contribution rate calculation based upon benefit 7 experience, shall be reduced by 3/10 of 1% under the contribution 8 rate otherwise established under the provisions of paragraphs (3) 9 and (4) of this subsection; provided that in no event shall the 10 contribution rate of any employer be reduced to less than 4/10 of 1%. If on March 31 of any calendar year the balance in the 11 12 unemployment trust fund equals or exceeds 12 1/2% of the total 13 taxable wages reported to the controller as of that date in respect to 14 employment during the preceding calendar year, the contribution 15 rate, effective July 1 following, of each employer eligible for a 16 contribution rate calculation based upon benefit experience, shall be 17 reduced by 6/10 of 1% if his account for all past periods reflects an 18 excess of contributions paid over total benefits charged of 3% or 19 more of his average annual payroll, otherwise by 3/10 of 1% under 20 the contribution rate otherwise established under the provisions of 21 paragraphs (3) and (4) of this subsection; provided that in no event 22 shall the contribution rate of any employer be reduced to less than 23 4/10 of 1%.
 - (C) The "balance" in the unemployment trust fund, as the term is used in subparagraphs (A) and (B) above, shall not include moneys credited to the State's account under section 903 of the Social Security Act, as amended (42 U.S.C.s.1103), during any period in which such moneys are appropriated for the payment of expenses incurred in the administration of the "unemployment compensation law."
 - (D) Prior to July 1 of each calendar year the controller shall determine the Unemployment Trust Reserve Ratio, which shall be calculated by dividing the balance of the unemployment trust fund as of the prior March 31 by total taxable wages reported to the controller by all employers as of March 31 with respect to their employment during the last calendar year.
 - (E) (i) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1997, c.263).

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- (ii) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2001, c.152).
- (iii) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2003, c.107).
 - (iv) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2004, c.45).
- (v) [With respect to the experience rating year beginning on July 1, 2003, the new employer rate or the unemployment experience rate of an employer under this section shall be the rate which appears in the column headed by the Unemployment Trust Fund Reserve Ratio as of the applicable calculation date and on the line with the Employer Reserve Ratio, as defined in paragraph 4 of

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EXPERIENCE RATING TAX TABLE Fund Reserve Ratio 2.50% 2.00% 1.50% 1.00% 0.99% Employer and to to to and Reserve Over 2.49% 1.99% 1.49% Under Ratio A B C D E Positive Reserve Ratio: 10 17% and over 0.3 0.4 0.5 0.6 1.2 11 16.00% to 16.99% 0.4 0.5 0.6 0.6 1.2 12 15.00% to 15.99% 0.4 0.6 0.7 0.7 1.2 13 14.00% to 14.99% 0.5 0.6 0.7 0.8 1.2								
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36 -25.00% to-29.99% 3.7 4.8 5.6 6.3 6.8								
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39 New Employer Rate 2.8 2.8 2.8 3.1 3.4								
¹ Fund balance as of March 31 as a percentage of taxable wages								
41 in the prior calendar year.								
42 ² Employer Reserve Ratio (Contributions minus benefits as a								
percentage of employer's taxable wages). I (Deleted by amendment,								
P.L. , c.)								
(vi) With respect to experience rating years beginning on or								
after July 1, 2004, the new employer rate or the unemployment								
after July 1, 2004, the new employer rate or the unemployment experience rate of an employer under this section shall be the rate								

- which appears in the column headed by the Unemployment Trust
- 2 Fund Reserve Ratio as of the applicable calculation date and on the
- 3 line with the Employer Reserve Ratio, as defined in paragraph 4 of
- 4 this subsection (R.S.43:21-7 (c)(4)), as set forth in the following
- 5 table:

EXPERIENCE RATING TAX TABLE

0	EXPERIENCE RATING TAX TABLE								
7	Fund Reserve Ratio ¹								
8		1.40%	1.00%	0.75%	0.50%	0.49%			
9	Employer	and	to	to	to	and			
10	Reserve	Over	1.39%	0.99%	0.74%	Under			
11	Ratio ²	A	В	C	D	E			
12	Positive Reserve Ratio:								
13	17% and over	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	1.2			
14	16.00% to 16.99%	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6	1.2			
15	15.00% to 15.99%	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.7	1.2			
16	14.00% to 14.99%	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	1.2			
17	13.00% to 13.99%	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.2			
18	12.00% to 12.99%	0.6	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.2			
19	11.00% to 11.99%	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.2			
20	10.00% to 10.99%	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.5	1.6			
21	9.00% to 9.99%	1.0	1.3	1.6	1.7	1.9			
22	8.00% to 8.99%	1.3	1.6	1.9	2.1	2.3			
23	7.00% to 7.99%	1.4	1.8	2.2	2.4	2.6			
24	6.00% to 6.99%	1.7	2.1	2.5	2.8	3.0			
25	5.00% to 5.99%	1.9	2.4	2.8	3.1	3.4			
26	4.00% to 4.99%	2.0	2.6	3.1	3.4	3.7			
27	3.00% to 3.99%	2.1	2.7	3.2	3.6	3.9			
28	2.00% to 2.99%	2.2	2.8	3.3	3.7	4.0			
29	1.00% to 1.99%	2.3	2.9	3.4	3.8	4.1			
30	0.00% to 0.99%	2.4	3.0	3.6	4.0	4.3			
31	Deficit Reserve Ratio:								
32	-0.00% to -2.99%	3.4	4.3	5.1	5.6	6.1			
33	-3.00% to -5.99%	3.4	4.3	5.1	5.7	6.2			
34	-6.00% to -8.99%	3.5	4.4	5.2	5.8	6.3			
35	-9.00% to-11.99%	3.5	4.5	5.3	5.9	6.4			
36	-12.00% to-14.99%	3.6	4.6	5.4	6.0	6.5			
37	-15.00% to-19.99%	3.6	4.6	5.5	6.1	6.6			
38	-20.00% to-24.99%	3.7	4.7	5.6	6.2	6.7			
39	-25.00% to-29.99%	3.7	4.8	5.6	6.3	6.8			
40	-30.00% to-34.99%	3.8	4.8	5.7	6.3	6.9			
41	-35.00% and under	5.4	5.4	5.8	6.4	7.0			
42	New Employer Rate	2.8	2.8	2.8	3.1	3.4			

¹Fund balance as of March 31 as a percentage of taxable wages in the prior calendar year.

²Employer Reserve Ratio (Contributions minus benefits as a percentage of employer's taxable wages).

^{47 (}F) (i) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1997, c.263).

(ii) [With respect to experience rating years beginning on or 1 2 after July 1, 1997, if the fund reserve ratio, based on the fund 3 balance as of the prior March 31, is less than 1.00%, the 4 contribution rate for each employer liable to pay contributions, as computed under subparagraph (E) of this paragraph (5), shall be 6 increased by a factor of 10% computed to the nearest multiple of 1/10% if not already a multiple thereof. I (Deleted by amendment, 8 P.L. , c.).

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- (iii) With respect to experience rating years beginning on or after July 1, 2004, if the fund reserve ratio, based on the fund balance as of the prior March 31, is less than 0.50%, the contribution rate for each employer liable to pay contributions, as computed under subparagraph (E) of this paragraph (5), shall be increased by a factor of 10% computed to the nearest multiple of 1/10% if not already a multiple thereof.
- (G) On or after January 1, 1993, notwithstanding any other provisions of this paragraph (5), the contribution rate for each employer liable to pay contributions, as computed under subparagraph (E) of this paragraph (5), shall be decreased by 0.1%, except that, during any experience rating year starting before January 1, 1998 in which the fund reserve ratio is equal to or greater than 7.00% or during any experience rating year starting on or after January 1, 1998, in which the fund reserve ratio is equal to or greater than 3.5%, there shall be no decrease pursuant to this subparagraph (G) in the contribution of any employer who has a deficit reserve ratio of negative 35.00% or under.
- [On or after January 1, 1993 until December 31, 1993, notwithstanding any other provisions of this paragraph (5), the contribution rate for each employer liable to pay contributions, as computed under subparagraph (E) of this paragraph (5), shall be decreased by a factor of 52.0% computed to the nearest multiple of 1/10%, except that, if an employer has a deficit reserve ratio of negative 35.0% or under, the employer's rate of contribution shall not be reduced pursuant to this subparagraph (H) to less than 5.4%. The amount of the reduction in the employer contributions stipulated by this subparagraph (H) shall be in addition to the amount of the reduction in the employer contributions stipulated by subparagraph (G) of this paragraph (5), except that the rate of contribution of an employer who has a deficit reserve ratio of negative 35.0% or under shall not be reduced pursuant to this subparagraph (H) to less than 5.4% and the rate of contribution of any other employer shall not be reduced to less than 0.0%. On or after January 1, 1994 until December 31, 1995, except as provided pursuant to subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (5), notwithstanding any other provisions of this paragraph (5), the contribution rate for each employer liable to pay contributions, as computed under subparagraph (E) of this paragraph (5), shall be decreased by a

factor of 36.0% computed to the nearest multiple of 1/10%, except that, if an employer has a deficit reserve ratio of negative 35.0% or under, the employer's rate of contribution shall not be reduced pursuant to this subparagraph (H) to less than 5.4%. The amount of the reduction in the employer contributions stipulated by this subparagraph (H) shall be in addition to the amount of the reduction in the employer contributions stipulated by subparagraph (G) of this paragraph (5), except that the rate of contribution of an employer who has a deficit reserve ratio of negative 35.0% or under shall not be reduced pursuant to this subparagraph (H) to less than 5.4% and the rate of contribution of any other employer shall not be reduced to less than 0.0%.

On or after April 1, 1996 until December 31, 1996, the contribution rate for each employer liable to pay contributions, as computed under subparagraph (E) of this paragraph (5), shall be decreased by a factor of 25.0% computed to the nearest multiple of 1/10%, except that, if an employer has a deficit reserve ratio of negative 35.0% or under, the employer's rate of contribution shall not be reduced pursuant to this subparagraph (H) to less than 5.4%. The amount of the reduction in the employer contributions stipulated by this subparagraph (H) shall be in addition to the amount of the reduction in the employer contributions stipulated by subparagraph (G) of this paragraph (5), except that the rate of contribution of an employer who has a deficit reserve ratio of negative 35.0% or under shall not be reduced pursuant to this subparagraph (H) to less than 5.4% and the rate of contribution of any other employer shall not be reduced to less than 0.0%.

On or after January 1, 1997 until December 31, 1997, the contribution rate for each employer liable to pay contributions, as computed under subparagraph (E) of this paragraph (5), shall be decreased by a factor of 10.0% computed to the nearest multiple of 1/10%, except that, if an employer has a deficit reserve ratio of negative 35.0% or under, the employer's rate of contribution shall not be reduced pursuant to this subparagraph (H) to less than 5.4%. The amount of the reduction in the employer contributions stipulated by this subparagraph (H) shall be in addition to the amount of the reduction in the employer contributions stipulated by subparagraph (G) of this paragraph (5), except that the rate of contribution of an employer who has a deficit reserve ratio of negative 35.0% or under shall not be reduced pursuant to this subparagraph (H) to less than 5.4% and the rate of contribution of any other employer shall not be reduced to less than 0.0%.] (Deleted by amendment, P.L., c.)

On and after January 1, 1998 until December 31, 2000 and on or after January 1, 2002 until June 30, 2006, the contribution rate for each employer liable to pay contributions, as computed under subparagraph (E) of this paragraph (5), shall be decreased by a

- 1 factor, as set out below, computed to the nearest multiple of 1/10%,
- 2 except that, if an employer has a deficit reserve ratio of negative
- 3 35.0% or under, the employer's rate of contribution shall not be
- 4 reduced pursuant to this subparagraph (H) to less than 5.4%:
- 5 From January 1, 1998 until December 31, 1998, a factor of 12%;
- 6 From January 1, 1999 until December 31, 1999, a factor of 10%;
- From January 1, 2000 until December 31, 2000, a factor of 7%;
- 8 From January 1, 2002 until March 31, 2002, a factor of 36%;
- 9 From April 1, 2002 until June 30, 2002, a factor of 85%;
- 10 From July 1, 2002 until June 30, 2003, a factor of 15%;
- 11 From July 1, 2003 until June 30, 2004, a factor of 15%;
- 12 From July 1, 2004 until June 30, 2005, a factor of 7%;

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- From July 1, 2005 until December 31, 2005, a factor of 16%; and
- 14 From January 1, 2006 until June 30, 2006, a factor of 34%.
 - The amount of the reduction in the employer contributions stipulated by this subparagraph (H) shall be in addition to the amount of the reduction in the employer contributions stipulated by subparagraph (G) of this paragraph (5), except that the rate of contribution of an employer who has a deficit reserve ratio of negative 35.0% or under shall not be reduced pursuant to this subparagraph (H) to less than 5.4% and the rate of contribution of any other employer shall not be reduced to less than 0.0%.
 - (I) [If the fund reserve ratio decreases to a level of less than 4.00% on March 31 of calendar year 1994 or calendar year 1995, the provisions of subparagraph (H) of this paragraph (5) shall cease to be in effect as of July 1 of that calendar year.
- If, upon calculating the unemployment compensation fund 27 28 reserve ratio pursuant to R.S.43:21-7(c)(5)(D) prior to March 31, 29 1997, March 31, 1998 or March 31, 1999, the controller finds that 30 the fund reserve ratio has decreased to a level of less than 3.00%, the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development shall 31 32 notify the State Treasurer of this fact and of the dollar amount 33 necessary to bring the fund reserve ratio up to a level of 3.00%. 34 The State Treasurer shall, prior to March 31, 1997, March 31, 1998 35 or March 31, 1999, as applicable, transfer from the General Fund to 36 the unemployment compensation fund, revenues in the amount 37 specified by the commissioner and which, upon deposit in the 38 unemployment compensation fund, shall result, upon recalculation, 39 in a fund reserve ratio used to determine employer contributions 40 beginning July 1, 1997, July 1, 1998, July 1, 1999, as applicable, of upon calculating the unemployment 41 3.00%. If, 42 compensation fund reserve ratio pursuant to R.S.43:21-7(c)(5)(D) 43 prior to March 31, 2000, the controller finds that the fund reserve 44 ratio has decreased to a level of less than 3.00%, the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development shall notify the State 45 Treasurer of this fact and of the dollar amount necessary to bring 46

the fund reserve ratio up to a level of 3.00%. The State Treasurer

shall, prior to March 31, 2000, transfer from the General Fund to the unemployment compensation fund, revenues in the amount specified by the commissioner and which, upon deposit in the unemployment compensation fund, shall result, upon recalculation, in a fund reserve ratio used to determine employer contributions beginning July 1, 2000 of at least 3.00%. [Obeleted by amendment, P.L., c.)

(J) On or after July 1, 2001, notwithstanding any other provisions of this paragraph (5), the contribution rate for each employer liable to pay contributions, as computed under subparagraph (E) of this paragraph (5), shall be decreased by 0.0175%, except that, during any experience rating year starting on or after July 1, 2001, in which the fund reserve ratio is equal to or greater than 3.5%, there shall be no decrease pursuant to this subparagraph (J) in the contribution of any employer who has a deficit reserve ratio of negative 35.00% or under. The amount of the reduction in the employer contributions stipulated by this subparagraph (J) shall be in addition to the amount of the reduction in the employer contributions stipulated by subparagraphs (G) and (H) of this paragraph (5), except that the rate of contribution of an employer who has a deficit reserve ratio of negative 35.0% or under shall not be reduced pursuant to this subparagraph (J) to less than 5.4% and the rate of contribution of any other employer shall not be reduced to less than 0.0%.

(K) With respect to experience rating years beginning on or after July 1, 2007, if the fund reserve ratio, based on the fund balance as of the prior March 31, is:

- (1) Equal to or greater than 5.00% but less than 7.5%, the contribution rate for each employer liable to pay contributions, as computed under subparagraph (E) of this paragraph (5), shall be reduced by a factor of 25% computed to the nearest multiple of 1/10% if not already a multiple thereof except that there shall be no decrease pursuant to this subparagraph (K) in the contribution of any employer who has a deficit reserve ratio of 35.00% or under.
- (2) Equal to or greater than 7.5% but less than 10.0%, the contribution rate for each employer liable to pay contributions, as computed under subparagraph (E) of this paragraph (5), shall be reduced by a factor of 50% computed to the nearest multiple of 1/10% if not already a multiple thereof except that there shall be no decrease pursuant to this subparagraph (K) in the contribution of any employer who has a deficit reserve ratio of 35.00% or under.
 - (6) Additional contributions.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any employer who has been assigned a contribution rate pursuant to subsection (c) of this section for the year commencing July 1, 1948, and for any year commencing July 1 thereafter, may voluntarily make payment of additional contributions, and upon such payment shall receive a

recomputation of the experience rate applicable to such employer, 1 2 including in the calculation the additional contribution so made, 3 except that, following a transfer as described under R.S.43:21-4 7(c)(7)(D), neither the predecessor nor successor in interest shall be 5 eligible to make a voluntary payment of additional contributions during the year the transfer occurs and the next full calendar year. 6 7 Any such additional contribution shall be made during the 30-day 8 period following the date of the mailing to the employer of the 9 notice of his contribution rate as prescribed in this section, unless, 10 for good cause, the time for payment has been extended by the 11 controller for not to exceed an additional 60 days; provided that in 12 no event may such payments which are made later than 120 days 13 after the beginning of the year for which such rates are effective be 14 considered in determining the experience rate for the year in which 15 the payment is made. Any employer receiving any extended period 16 of time within which to make such additional payment and failing 17 to make such payment timely shall be, in addition to the required 18 amount of additional payment, liable for a penalty of 5% thereof or 19 \$5.00, whichever is greater, not to exceed \$50.00. Any adjustment 20 under this subsection shall be made only in the form of credits 21 against accrued or future contributions.

(7) Transfers.

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(A) Upon the transfer of the organization, trade or business, or substantially all the assets of an employer to a successor in interest, whether by merger, consolidation, sale, transfer, descent or otherwise, the controller shall transfer the employment experience of the predecessor employer to the successor in interest, including credit for past years, contributions paid, annual payrolls, benefit charges, et cetera, applicable to such predecessor employer, pursuant to regulation, if it is determined that the employment experience of the predecessor employer with respect to the organization, trade, assets or business which has been transferred may be considered indicative of the future employment experience of the successor in interest. The successor in interest may, within four months of the date of such transfer of the organization, trade, assets or business, or thereafter upon good cause shown, request a reconsideration of the transfer of employment experience of the predecessor employer. The request for reconsideration shall demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the controller, that the employment experience of the predecessor is not indicative of the future employment experience of the successor.

(B) An employer who transfers part of his or its organization, trade, assets or business to a successor in interest, whether by merger, consolidation, sale, transfer, descent or otherwise, may jointly make application with such successor in interest for transfer of that portion of the employment experience of the predecessor employer relating to the portion of the organization, trade, assets or

business transferred to the successor in interest, including credit for past years, contributions paid, annual payrolls, benefit charges, et cetera, applicable to such predecessor employer. The transfer of employment experience may be allowed pursuant to regulation only if it is found that the employment experience of the predecessor employer with respect to the portion of the organization, trade, assets or business which has been transferred may be considered indicative of the future employment experience of the successor in interest. Credit shall be given to the successor in interest only for the years during which contributions were paid by the predecessor employer with respect to that part of the organization, trade, assets or business transferred.

- (C) A transfer of the employment experience in whole or in part having become final, the predecessor employer thereafter shall not be entitled to consideration for an adjusted rate based upon his or its experience or the part thereof, as the case may be, which has thus been transferred. A successor in interest to whom employment experience or a part thereof is transferred pursuant to this subsection shall, as of the date of the transfer of the organization, trade, assets or business, or part thereof, immediately become an employer if not theretofore an employer subject to this chapter (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.).
- (D) If an employer who transfers in whole or in part his or its organization, trade, assets or business to a successor in interest, whether by merger, consolidation, sale, transfer, descent or otherwise and both the employer and successor in interest are at the time of the transfer under common ownership, management or control, then the employment experience attributable to the transferred business shall also be transferred to and combined with the employment experience of the successor in interest. The transfer of the employment experience is mandatory and not subject to appeal or protest.
- (E) The transfer of part of an employer's employment experience to a successor in interest shall become effective as of the first day of the calendar quarter following the acquisition by the successor in interest. As of the effective date, the successor in interest shall have its employer rate recalculated by merging its existing employment experience, if any, with the employment experience acquired. If the successor in interest is not an employer as of the date of acquisition, it shall be assigned the new employer rate until the effective date of the transfer of employment experience.
- (F) Upon the transfer in whole or in part of the organization, trade, assets or business to a successor in interest, the employment experience shall not be transferred if the successor in interest is not an employer at the time of the acquisition and the controller finds that the successor in interest acquired the business solely or primarily for the purpose of obtaining a lower rate of contributions.

(d) Contributions of workers to the unemployment compensation fund and the State disability benefits fund.

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- 3 (1) (A) For periods after January 1, 1975, each worker shall 4 contribute to the fund 1% of his wages with respect to his 5 employment with an employer, which occurs on and after January 6 1, 1975, after such employer has satisfied the condition set forth in 7 subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19 with respect to becoming an 8 employer; provided, however, that such contributions shall be at the 9 rate of 1/2 of 1% of wages paid with respect to employment while 10 the worker is in the employ of the State of New Jersey, or any 11 governmental entity or instrumentality which is an employer as 12 defined under R.S.43:21-19(h)(5), or is covered by an approved 13 private plan under the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law" or 14 while the worker is exempt from the provisions of the "Temporary 15 Disability Benefits Law" under section 7 of that law, P.L.1948, 16 c.110 (C.43:21-31).
 - (B) Effective January 1, 1978 there shall be no contributions by workers in the employ of any governmental or nongovernmental employer electing or required to make payments in lieu of contributions unless the employer is covered by the State plan under the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law" (C.43:21-25 et seq.), and in that case contributions shall be at the rate of 1/2 of 1%, except that commencing July 1, 1986, workers in the employ of any nongovernmental employer electing or required to make payments in lieu of contributions shall be required to make contributions to the fund at the same rate prescribed for workers of other nongovernmental employers.
 - (C) (i) Notwithstanding the above provisions of this paragraph (1), during the period starting July 1, 1986 and ending December 31, 1992, each worker shall contribute to the fund 1.125% of wages paid with respect to his employment with a governmental employer electing or required to pay contributions or nongovernmental employer, including a nonprofit organization which is an employer as defined under R.S.43:21-19(h)(6), regardless of whether that nonprofit organization elects or is required to finance its benefit costs with contributions to the fund or by payments in lieu of contributions, after that employer has satisfied the conditions set forth in subsection R.S.43:21-19(h) with respect to becoming an employer. Contributions, however, shall be at the rate of 0.625% while the worker is covered by an approved private plan under the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law" while the worker is exempt under section 7 of that law, P.L.1948, c.110 (C.43:21-31) or any other provision of that law; provided that such contributions shall be at the rate of 0.625% of wages paid with respect to employment with the State of New Jersey or any other governmental entity or instrumentality electing or required to make payments in lieu of contributions and which is covered by the State plan under the

- 1 "Temporary Disability Benefits Law," except that, while the worker
- 2 is exempt from the provisions of the "Temporary Disability Benefits
- 3 Law" under section 7 of that law, P.L.1948, c.110 (C.43:21-31) or
- 4 any other provision of that law, or is covered for disability benefits
- 5 by an approved private plan of the employer, the contributions to
- 6 the fund shall be 0.125%.

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- (ii) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1995, c.422.)
- 8 (D) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this paragraph (1), 9 during the period starting January 1, 1993 and ending June 30, 10 1994, each worker shall contribute to the unemployment 11 compensation fund 0.5% of wages paid with respect to the worker's 12 employment with a governmental employer electing or required to 13 pay contributions or nongovernmental employer, including a 14 nonprofit organization which is an employer as defined under 15 paragraph (6) of subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19, regardless of 16 whether that nonprofit organization elects or is required to finance 17 its benefit costs with contributions to the fund or by payments in 18 lieu of contributions, after that employer has satisfied the conditions 19 set forth in subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19 with respect to becoming 20 an employer. No contributions, however, shall be made by the 21 worker while the worker is covered by an approved private plan 22 under the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law," P.L.1948, c.110 23 (C.43:21-25 et seq.) or while the worker is exempt under section 7 24 of P.L.1948, c.110 (C.43:21-31) or any other provision of that law; 25 provided that the contributions shall be at the rate of 0.50% of 26 wages paid with respect to employment with the State of New 27 Jersey or any other governmental entity or instrumentality electing or required to make payments in lieu of contributions and which is 28 29 covered by the State plan under the "Temporary Disability Benefits 30 Law," except that, while the worker is exempt from the provisions 31 of the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law" under section 7 of that 32 law, P.L.1948, c.110 (C.43:21-31) or any other provision of that 33 law, or is covered for disability benefits by an approved private plan 34 of the employer, no contributions shall be made to the fund.

Each worker shall, starting on January 1, 1996 and ending March 31, 1996, contribute to the unemployment compensation fund 0.60% of wages paid with respect to the worker's employment with a governmental employer electing or required to pay contributions or nongovernmental employer, including a nonprofit organization which is an employer as defined under paragraph (6) of subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19, regardless of whether that nonprofit organization elects or is required to finance its benefit costs with contributions to the fund or by payments in lieu of contributions, after that employer has satisfied the conditions set forth in subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19 with respect to becoming an employer, provided that the contributions shall be at the rate of 0.10% of wages paid with respect to employment with the State of

New Jersey or any other governmental entity or instrumentality electing or required to make payments in lieu of contributions.

Each worker shall, starting on January 1, 1998 and ending December 31, 1998, contribute to the unemployment compensation fund 0.10% of wages paid with respect to the worker's employment with a governmental employer electing or required to pay contributions or nongovernmental employer, including a nonprofit organization which is an employer as defined under paragraph (6) of subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19, regardless of whether that nonprofit organization elects or is required to finance its benefit costs with contributions to the fund or by payments in lieu of contributions, after that employer has satisfied the conditions set forth in subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19 with respect to becoming an employer, provided that the contributions shall be at the rate of 0.10% of wages paid with respect to employment with the State of New Jersey or any other governmental entity or instrumentality electing or required to make payments in lieu of contributions.

Each worker shall, starting on January 1, 1999 until December 31, 1999, contribute to the unemployment compensation fund 0.15% of wages paid with respect to the worker's employment with a governmental employer electing or required to pay contributions or nongovernmental employer, including a nonprofit organization which is an employer as defined under paragraph (6) of subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19, regardless of whether that nonprofit organization elects or is required to finance its benefit costs with contributions to the fund or by payments in lieu of contributions, after that employer has satisfied the conditions set forth in subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19 with respect to becoming an employer, provided that the contributions shall be at the rate of 0.10% of wages paid with respect to employment with the State of New Jersey or any other governmental entity or instrumentality electing or required to make payments in lieu of contributions.

Each worker shall, starting on January 1, 2000 until December 31, 2001, contribute to the unemployment compensation fund 0.20% of wages paid with respect to the worker's employment with a governmental employer electing or required to pay contributions or nongovernmental employer, including a nonprofit organization which is an employer as defined under paragraph (6) of subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19, regardless of whether that nonprofit organization elects or is required to finance its benefit costs with contributions to the fund or by payments in lieu of contributions, after that employer has satisfied the conditions set forth in subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19 with respect to becoming an employer, provided that the contributions shall be at the rate of 0.10% of wages paid with respect to employment with the State of New Jersey or any other governmental entity or instrumentality electing or required to make payments in lieu of contributions.

Each worker shall, starting on January 1, 2002 until June 30, 2004, contribute to the unemployment compensation fund 0.1825% of wages paid with respect to the worker's employment with a governmental employer electing or required to pay contributions or a nongovernmental employer, including a nonprofit organization which is an employer as defined under paragraph (6) of subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19, regardless of whether that nonprofit organization elects or is required to finance its benefit costs with contributions to the fund or by payments in lieu of contributions, after that employer has satisfied the conditions set forth in subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19 with respect to becoming an employer, provided that the contributions shall be at the rate of 0.0825% of wages paid with respect to employment with the State of New Jersey or any other governmental entity or instrumentality electing or required to make payments in lieu of contributions.

Each worker shall, starting on and after July 1, 2004, contribute to the unemployment compensation fund 0.3825% of wages paid with respect to the worker's employment with a governmental employer electing or required to pay contributions nongovernmental employer, including a nonprofit organization which is an employer as defined under paragraph (6) of subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19, regardless of whether that nonprofit organization elects or is required to finance its benefit costs with contributions to the fund or by payments in lieu of contributions, after that employer has satisfied the conditions set forth in subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19 with respect to becoming an employer, provided that the contributions shall be at the rate of 0.0825% of wages paid with respect to employment with the State of New Jersey or any other governmental entity or instrumentality electing or required to make payments in lieu of contributions.

- (E) Each employer shall, notwithstanding any provision of law in this State to the contrary, withhold in trust the amount of his workers' contributions from their wages at the time such wages are paid, shall show such deduction on his payroll records, shall furnish such evidence thereof to his workers as the division or controller may prescribe, and shall transmit all such contributions, in addition to his own contributions, to the office of the controller in such manner and at such times as may be prescribed. If any employer fails to deduct the contributions of any of his workers at the time their wages are paid, or fails to make a deduction therefor at the time wages are paid for the next succeeding payroll period, he alone shall thereafter be liable for such contributions, and for the purpose of R.S.43:21-14, such contributions shall be treated as employer's contributions required from him.
- (F) As used in this chapter (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.), except when the context clearly requires otherwise, the term "contributions" shall include the contributions of workers pursuant to this section.

- (G) Each worker shall, starting on July 1, 1994, contribute to the 1 2 State disability benefits fund an amount equal to 0.50% of wages 3 paid with respect to the worker's employment with a government 4 employer electing or required to pay contributions to the State 5 disability benefits fund or nongovernmental employer, including a 6 nonprofit organization which is an employer as defined under 7 paragraph (6) of subsection (h) of R.S.43:21-19, unless the 8 employer is covered by an approved private disability plan or is 9 exempt from the provisions of the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law," P.L.1948, c.110 (C.43:21-25 et seq.) under section 7 of that 10 11 law (C.43:21-31) or any other provision of that law.
- 12 (2) (A) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1984, c.24.)
- 13 (B) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1984, c.24.)
- 14 (C) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1994, c.112.)
- 15 (D) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1994, c.112.)
- 16 (E) (i) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1994, c.112.)
- (ii) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1996, c.28.)
- 18 (iii) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1994, c.112.)

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(3) If an employee receives wages from more than one employer during any calendar year, and either the sum of his contributions deposited in and credited to the State disability benefits fund plus the amount of his contributions, if any, required towards the costs of benefits under one or more approved private plans under the provisions of section 9 of the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law" (C.43:21-33) and deducted from his wages, or the sum of such latter contributions, if the employee is covered during such calendar year only by two or more private plans, exceeds an amount equal to 1/2 of 1% of the "wages" determined in accordance with the provisions of R.S.43:21-7(b)(3) during the calendar years beginning on or after January 1, 1976, the employee shall be entitled to a refund of the excess if he makes a claim to the controller within two years after the end of the calendar year in which the wages are received with respect to which the refund is claimed and establishes his right to such refund. Such refund shall be made by the controller from the State disability benefits fund. No interest shall be allowed or paid with respect to any such refund. The controller shall, in accordance with prescribed regulations, determine the portion of the aggregate amount of such refunds made during any calendar year which is applicable to private plans for which deductions were made under section 9 of the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law" (C.43:21-33) such determination to be based upon the ratio of the amount of such wages exempt from contributions to such fund, as provided in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) of this subsection with respect to coverage under private plans, to the total wages so exempt plus the amount of such wages subject to contributions to the disability benefits fund, as provided in subparagraph (G) of paragraph (1) of this subsection. The controller shall, in accordance with prescribed

regulations, prorate the amount so determined among the applicable private plans in the proportion that the wages covered by each plan bear to the total private plan wages involved in such refunds, and shall assess against and recover from the employer, or the insurer if the insurer has indemnified the employer with respect thereto, the amount so prorated. The provisions of R.S.43:21-14 with respect to collection of employer contributions shall apply to such assessments. The amount so recovered by the controller shall be paid into the State disability benefits fund.

- (4) If an individual does not receive any wages from the employing unit which for the purposes of this chapter (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.) is treated as his employer, or receives his wages from some other employing unit, such employer shall nevertheless be liable for such individual's contributions in the first instance; and after payment thereof such employer may deduct the amount of such contributions from any sums payable by him to such employing unit, or may recover the amount of such contributions from such employing unit, or, in the absence of such an employing unit, from such individual, in a civil action; provided proceedings therefor are instituted within three months after the date on which such contributions are payable. General rules shall be prescribed whereby such an employing unit may recover the amount of such contributions from such individuals in the same manner as if it were the employer.
- (5) Every employer who has elected to become an employer subject to this chapter (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.), or to cease to be an employer subject to this chapter (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.), pursuant to the provisions of R.S.43:21-8, shall post and maintain printed notices of such election on his premises, of such design, in such numbers, and at such places as the director may determine to be necessary to give notice thereof to persons in his service.
- (6) Contributions by workers, payable to the controller as herein provided, shall be exempt from garnishment, attachment, execution, or any other remedy for the collection of debts.
 - (e) Contributions by employers to State disability benefits fund.
- (1) Except as hereinafter provided, each employer shall, in addition to the contributions required by subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this section, contribute 1/2 of 1% of the wages paid by such employer to workers with respect to employment unless he is not a covered employer as defined in section 3 of the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law" (C.43:21-27 (a)), except that the rate for the State of New Jersey shall be 1/10 of 1% for the calendar year 1980 and for the first six months of 1981. Prior to July 1, 1981 and prior to July 1 each year thereafter, the controller shall review the experience accumulated in the account of the State of New Jersey and establish a rate for the next following fiscal year which, in combination with worker contributions, will produce sufficient

- 1 revenue to keep the account in balance; except that the rate so 2 established shall not be less than 1/10 of 1%. Such contributions 3 shall become due and be paid by the employer to the controller for 4 the State disability benefits fund as established by law, in 5 accordance with such regulations as may be prescribed, and shall 6 not be deducted, in whole or in part, from the remuneration of 7 individuals in his employ. In the payment of any contributions, a 8 fractional part of a cent shall be disregarded unless it amounts to 9 \$0.005 or more, in which case it shall be increased to \$0.01.
 - (2) During the continuance of coverage of a worker by an approved private plan of disability benefits under the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law," the employer shall be exempt from the contributions required by subparagraph (1) above with respect to wages paid to such worker.

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- (3) (A) The rates of contribution as specified in subparagraph (1) above shall be subject to modification as provided herein with respect to employer contributions due on and after July 1, 1951.
- (B) A separate disability benefits account shall be maintained for each employer required to contribute to the State disability benefits fund and such account shall be credited with contributions deposited in and credited to such fund with respect to employment occurring on and after January 1, 1949. Each employer's account shall be credited with all contributions paid on or before January 31 of any calendar year on his own behalf and on behalf of individuals in his service with respect to employment occurring in preceding calendar years; provided, however, that if January 31 of any calendar year falls on a Saturday or Sunday an employer's account shall be credited as of January 31 of such calendar year with all the contributions which he has paid on or before the next succeeding day which is not a Saturday or Sunday. But nothing in this act shall be construed to grant any employer or individuals in his service prior claims or rights to the amounts paid by him to the fund either on his own behalf or on behalf of such individuals. Benefits paid to any covered individual in accordance with Article III of the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law" on or before December 31 of any calendar year with respect to disability in such calendar year and in preceding calendar years shall be charged against the account of the employer by whom such individual was employed at the commencement of such disability or by whom he was last employed, if out of employment.
- (C) The controller may prescribe regulations for the establishment, maintenance, and dissolution of joint accounts by two or more employers, and shall, in accordance with such regulations and upon application by two or more employers to establish such an account, or to merge their several individual accounts in a joint account, maintain such joint account as if it constituted a single employer's account.

(D) Prior to July 1 of each calendar year, the controller shall 2 make a preliminary determination of the rate of contribution for the 12 months commencing on such July 1 for each employer subject to 4 the contribution requirements of this subsection (e).

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- (1) Such preliminary rate shall be 1/2 of 1% unless on the preceding January 31 of such year such employer shall have been a covered employer who has paid contributions to the State disability benefits fund with respect to employment in the three calendar years immediately preceding such year.
- (2) If the minimum requirements in (1) above have been fulfilled and the credited contributions exceed the benefits charged by more than \$500.00, such preliminary rate shall be as follows:
- (i) 2/10 of 1% if such excess over \$500.00 exceeds 1% but is less than 1 1/4% of his average annual payroll as defined in this chapter (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.);
- (ii) 15/100 of 1% if such excess over \$500.00 equals or exceeds 1 1/4% but is less than 1 1/2% of his average annual payroll;
- (iii) 1/10 of 1% if such excess over \$500.00 equals or exceeds 1 1/2% of his average annual payroll.
- (3) If the minimum requirements in (1) above have been fulfilled and the contributions credited exceed the benefits charged but by not more than \$500.00 plus 1% of his average annual payroll, or if the benefits charged exceed the contributions credited but by not more than \$500.00, the preliminary rate shall be 1/4 of
- (4) If the minimum requirements in (1) above have been fulfilled and the benefits charged exceed the contributions credited by more than \$500.00, such preliminary rate shall be as follows:
- (i) 35/100 of 1% if such excess over \$500.00 is less than 1/4 of 1% of his average annual payroll;
- (ii) 45/100 of 1% if such excess over \$500.00 equals or exceeds 1/4 of 1% but is less than 1/2 of 1% of his average annual payroll;
- (iii) 55/100 of 1% if such excess over \$500.00 equals or exceeds 1/2 of 1% but is less than 3/4 of 1% of his average annual payroll;
- (iv) 65/100 of 1% if such excess over \$500.00 equals or exceeds 3/4 of 1% but is less than 1% of his average annual payroll;
- (v) 75/100 of 1% if such excess over \$500.00 equals or exceeds 1% of his average annual payroll.
- (5) Determination of the preliminary rate as specified in (2), (3) and (4) above shall be subject, however, to the condition that it shall in no event be decreased by more than 1/10 of 1% of wages or increased by more than 2/10 of 1% of wages from the preliminary rate determined for the preceding year in accordance with (1), (2), (3) or (4), whichever shall have been applicable.
- 45 (E) (1) Prior to July 1 of each calendar year the controller shall 46 determine the amount of the State disability benefits fund as of 47 December 31 of the preceding calendar year, increased by the

- contributions paid thereto during January of the current calendar year with respect to employment occurring in the preceding calendar year. If such amount exceeds the net amount withdrawn from the unemployment trust fund pursuant to section 23 of the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law," P.L.1948, c.110 (C.43:21-47) plus the amount at the end of such preceding calendar year of the unemployment disability account as defined in section 22 of said law (C.43:21-46), such excess shall be expressed as a percentage of the wages on which contributions were paid to the State disability benefits fund on or before January 31 with respect to employment in the preceding calendar year.
 - (2) The controller shall then make a final determination of the rates of contribution for the 12 months commencing July 1 of such year for employers whose preliminary rates are determined as provided in (D) hereof, as follows:

- (i) If the percentage determined in accordance with paragraph (E)(1) of this subsection equals or exceeds 1 1/4%, the final employer rates shall be the preliminary rates determined as provided in (D) hereof, except that if the employer's preliminary rate is determined as provided in (D)(2) or (D)(3) hereof, the final employer rate shall be the preliminary employer rate decreased by such percentage of excess taken to the nearest 5/100 of 1%, but in no case shall such final rate be less than 1/10 of 1%.
- (ii) If the percentage determined in accordance with paragraph (E)(1) of this subsection equals or exceeds 3/4 of 1% and is less than 1 1/4 of 1%, the final employer rates shall be the preliminary employer rates.
- (iii) If the percentage determined in accordance with paragraph (E)(1) of this subsection is less than 3/4 of 1%, but in excess of 1/4 of 1%, the final employer rates shall be the preliminary employer rates determined as provided in (D) hereof increased by the difference between 3/4 of 1% and such percentage taken to the nearest 5/100 of 1%; provided, however, that no such final rate shall be more than 1/4 of 1% in the case of an employer whose preliminary rate is determined as provided in (D)(2) hereof, more than 1/2 of 1% in the case of an employer whose preliminary rate is determined as provided in (D)(1) and (D)(3) hereof, nor more than 3/4 of 1% in the case of an employer whose preliminary rate is determined as provided in (D)(4) hereof.
- (iv) If the amount of the State disability benefits fund determined as provided in paragraph (E)(1) of this subsection is equal to or less than 1/4 of 1%, then the final rate shall be 2/5 of 1% in the case of an employer whose preliminary rate is determined as provided in (D)(2) hereof, 7/10 of 1% in the case of an employer whose preliminary rate is determined as provided in (D)(1) and (D)(3) hereof, and 1.1% in the case of an employer whose preliminary rate is determined as provided in (D)(4) hereof. Notwithstanding any

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other provision of law or any determination made by the controller 1 2 with respect to any 12-month period commencing on July 1, 1970, 3 the final rates for all employers for the period beginning January 1, 4 1971, shall be as set forth herein. 5 (cf: P.L.2005, c.249, s.1) 6 7 2. This act shall take effect immediately. 8 9 10 **STATEMENT** 11 12 This bill provides new, reduced unemployment insurance (UI) 13 tax schedules when the reserve ratio of the State's UI trust fund 14 exceeds 5.0%, which would represent a UI fund balance of \$3.6 15 billion in 2007. For any experience rating year beginning on or after July 1, 2007, the bill would reduce UI taxes by 25% from the 16 rates provided under the "A" UI tax schedule if the ratio exceeds 17 18 5.0% and reduce the taxes by 50% if the ratio exceeds 7.5%. The 19 "reserve ratio" means the UI trust fund balance as of March 31 as a 20 percentage of all wages subject to UI taxes during the prior calendar 21 year. 22 Aside from the direct employer benefit of reduced UI taxes, this 23 would help to prevent an excessive build up in the UI fund balance 24 during periods of growth and high employment, thus reducing the 25 likelihood of the redirection of UI tax revenues to other purposes. 26 The most recent redirection of UI tax revenues, totaling \$1.5 billion 27 to the Health Care Subsidy Fund from 2002 to 2005, occurred after 28 UI reserve ratios exceeding 5.0% every year of the 1990's resulted, 29 in 2001, in a record high UI fund balance of \$3.5 billion and a

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reserve ratio of 6.0%.

ASSEMBLY BUDGET COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 1503

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 15, 2009

The Assembly Budget Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1503.

The bill provides new, reduced unemployment insurance (UI) tax schedules when the reserve ratio of the State's UI trust fund exceeds 5.0%, which would represent a UI trust fund balance of \$3.7 billion in 2008. For any experience rating year beginning on or after July 1, 2009, the bill would reduce UI taxes by 25% from the rates provided under the "A" UI tax schedule if the ratio exceeds 5.0% and reduce the taxes by 50% if the ratio exceeds 7.5%. The "reserve ratio" means the UI trust fund balance as of March 31 as a percentage of all wages subject to UI taxes during the prior calendar year.

This bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 562, as also reported by the committee.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2008-2009 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

FISCAL IMPACT:

According to information provided by the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD), the estimated UI trust fund balance on March 31, 2008 was \$977.3 million, yielding a fund "reserve ratio" on that date of 1.35%. (The "reserve ratio" is the UI trust fund balance as of March 31 of a given year as a percentage of all wages subject to UI taxes during the prior calendar year.) In order to meet the 5% reserve ratio threshold required to trigger the tax reduction proposed by this bill, the balance of the UI fund would need to grow by \$2.5 billion to reach approximately \$3.7 billion. Current projections by the DOLWD for the UI fund balance indicate that for 2009, 2010, and 2011, the UI trust fund will not have a reserve ratio above 1.5%. Based on these projections, the Office of Legislative Services notes that it is extremely unlikely that the reduction in rates provided under this bill would be triggered through at least 2011.