



General Assembly

February Session, 2016

***Raised Bill No. 100***

LCO No. 1005



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:  
(GAE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY FOR UNEMPLOYMENT  
COMPENSATION BENEFITS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 31-225a of the 2016 supplement to  
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
3 thereof (*Effective January 1, 2017*):

4 (c) (1) (A) Any week for which the employer has compensated the  
5 claimant in the form of wages in lieu of notice, dismissal payments or  
6 any similar payment for loss of wages shall be considered a week of  
7 employment for the purpose of determining employer chargeability.  
8 (B) No benefits shall be charged to any employer who paid wages of (i)  
9 five hundred dollars or less to the claimant in his or her base period, if  
10 such base period commenced prior to January 1, 2017, or (ii) two  
11 thousand dollars or less to the claimant in his or her base period, if  
12 such base period commenced on or after January 1, 2017. (C) No  
13 dependency allowance paid to a claimant shall be charged to any  
14 employer. (D) In the event of a natural disaster declared by the

15 President of the United States, no benefits paid on the basis of total or  
16 partial unemployment which is the result of physical damage to a  
17 place of employment caused by severe weather conditions including,  
18 but not limited to, hurricanes, snow storms, ice storms or flooding, or  
19 fire except where caused by the employer, shall be charged to any  
20 employer. (E) If the administrator finds that (i) an individual's most  
21 recent separation from a base period employer occurred under  
22 conditions which would result in disqualification by reason of  
23 subdivision (2), (6) or (9) of subsection (a) of section 31-236, or (ii) an  
24 individual was discharged for violating an employer's drug testing  
25 policy, provided the policy has been adopted and applied consistent  
26 with sections 31-51t to 31-51aa, inclusive, section 14-261b and any  
27 applicable federal law, no benefits paid thereafter to such individual  
28 with respect to any week of unemployment which is based upon  
29 wages paid by such employer with respect to employment prior to  
30 such separation shall be charged to such employer's account, provided  
31 such employer shall have filed a notice with the administrator within  
32 the time allowed for appeal in section 31-241. (F) No base period  
33 employer's account shall be charged with respect to benefits paid to a  
34 claimant if such employer continues to employ such claimant at the  
35 time the employer's account would otherwise have been charged to the  
36 same extent that he or she employed him or her during the  
37 individual's base period, provided the employer shall notify the  
38 administrator within the time allowed for appeal in section 31-241. (G)  
39 If a claimant has failed to accept suitable employment under the  
40 provisions of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 31-236 and the  
41 disqualification has been imposed, the account of the employer who  
42 makes an offer of employment to a claimant who was a former  
43 employee shall not be charged with any benefit payments made to  
44 such claimant after such initial offer of reemployment until such time  
45 as such claimant resumes employment with such employer, provided  
46 such employer shall [make application] apply therefor in a form  
47 acceptable to the administrator. The administrator shall notify such  
48 employer whether or not [his or her] such employer's application is

49 granted. Any decision of the administrator denying suspension of  
50 charges as herein provided may be appealed within the time allowed  
51 for appeal in section 31-241. (H) Fifty per cent of benefits paid to a  
52 claimant under the federal-state extended duration unemployment  
53 benefits program established by the federal Employment Security Act  
54 shall be charged to the experience accounts of the claimant's base  
55 period employers in the same manner as the regular benefits paid for  
56 such benefit year. (I) No base period employer's account shall be  
57 charged with respect to benefits paid to a claimant who voluntarily left  
58 suitable work with such employer (i) to care for a seriously ill spouse,  
59 parent or child or (ii) due to the discontinuance of the transportation  
60 used by the claimant to get to and from work, as provided in  
61 subparagraphs (A)(ii) and (A)(iii) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of  
62 section 31-236. (J) No base period employer's account shall be charged  
63 with respect to benefits paid to a claimant who has been discharged or  
64 suspended because the claimant has been disqualified from  
65 performing the work for which he or she was hired due to the loss of  
66 such claimant's operator license as a result of a drug or alcohol test or  
67 testing program conducted in accordance with section 14-44k, 14-227a  
68 or 14-227b while the claimant was off duty.

69 (2) All benefits paid which are not charged to any employer shall be  
70 pooled.

71 (3) The noncharging provisions of this chapter, except subdivisions  
72 (1)(D) and (1)(F) of this subsection, shall not apply to reimbursing  
73 employers.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	January 1, 2017	31-225a(c)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To change the minimum eligibility for unemployment compensation benefits from five hundred dollars or less to two thousand dollars or less earned during the claimant's base period.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*