



## **Summary of Legislative Bill 203**

**Signed by the Governor on March 29, 2017**

Legislative Bill 203 changed the provisions relating to the maximum annual unemployment benefit amounts and disqualification from unemployment benefits.

Under the new law and for any benefit year beginning after October 1, 2018, any eligible individual is entitled during any benefit year to the total amount of benefits equal to whichever is the lesser of (a) 26x his or her weekly benefit amount, or (b) 1/3 if his or her wages in the employment of each employer per calendar quarter of his or her base period.

The employee will continue to have benefits reduced as described in Neb. Rev. Stat. 48-626; however, the Bill added new subsections (2) and (3). Under these new subsections, if a claimant has been separated from employment because he or she left work voluntarily for the sole purpose of accepting previously secured, permanent, full-time, insured work, which he or she does accept, which offers a reasonable expectation of betterment of wages or working conditions, or both, his or her wages will be reduced by 2x his or her weekly benefit amount. His or her wages will be reduced by 13x his or her weekly benefit amount if he or she left work voluntarily without good cause for any other reason. Finally, if a claimant has been separated from his or her employment for misconduct connected to his or her work, his or her total benefit amount will be reduced by 14x his or her weekly benefit amount.

In addition, the Bill amended Neb. Rev. Stat. 48-628 to provide that, for a benefit year beginning on or after October 1, 2018, an individual shall be disqualified for benefits for the week in which he or she has left work voluntarily without good cause, and for all subsequent weeks, until the individual has earned wages in an amount of at least 4x his or her weekly benefit amount and has separated from the most recent subsequent employer under non-disqualifying conditions.