

**Section 1. IRON ORE MINING INDUSTRY EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS PROGRAM**

**Subdivision 1. Availability of Extended Benefits.** Extended unemployment benefits are available from the Minnesota Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund to an applicant who was laid off due to lack of work after March 1, 2015, from an iron ore mining industry employer or from an employer that is a supplier of goods or services that are directly related to the extraction or processing of iron ore.

**Subdivision 2. Eligibility requirements.** An applicant is eligible to receive extended unemployment benefits under this section for any week through the week ending June 25, 2017, if:

1) the applicant established a benefit account under Minnesota Statutes, section 268.07, with a majority of the wage credits from an employer described in subdivision 1, and has exhausted the maximum amount of regular unemployment benefits available on that benefit account; and

2) the applicant meets the same requirements that an applicant for regular unemployment benefits must meet under Minnesota Statutes, section 268.069, subdivision 1.

**Subdivision 3. Weekly and maximum amount of extended unemployment benefits.**

(a) The weekly benefit amount of extended unemployment benefits is the same as the weekly benefit amount of regular unemployment benefits on the benefit account established in subdivision 2, clause 1.

(b) The maximum amount of extended unemployment benefits available to an applicant under this section is an amount equal to 26 weeks of payment at the applicant's weekly extended unemployment benefit amount.

(c) If an applicant qualifies for a new regular benefit account that meets the requirements of subdivision 5, paragraph (b) before the applicant has been paid extended unemployment benefits, and that new regular benefit account meets the requirements of subdivision 2, clause (1), the applicant's weekly extended unemployment benefit amount will be equal to the weekly unemployment benefit amount on the applicant's new regular benefit account.

**Subdivision 4. Qualifying for a new regular benefit account.**

(a) If after exhausting the maximum amount of regular unemployment benefits available as a result of the layoff under subdivision 1, an applicant qualifies for new regular benefit account under Minnesota Statutes, section 268.07, the applicant must apply for and establish that new regular benefit account.

(b) If the applicant's weekly benefit amount under the new regular benefit account is equal to or higher than the applicant's weekly extended unemployment benefit amount the applicant must request unemployment benefits under the new regular benefit account.

An applicant is ineligible for extended unemployment benefits under this section until the applicant has exhausted the maximum amount of unemployment benefits available on the new regular benefit account.

(c) If the applicant's weekly unemployment benefit amount on the new regular benefit account is less than the applicant's weekly benefit amount of extended unemployment benefits, the applicant must request extended unemployment benefits. An applicant is ineligible for new regular unemployment benefits until the applicant has exhausted the maximum amount of extended unemployment benefits available under this section.

Subdivision 5. Eligibility for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA). An applicant who has applied and been determined eligible for federal trade adjustment assistance benefits is not eligible for extended unemployment benefits under this section.

Subdivision 6. Effect on Employer. Benefits paid under this section will not be used in computing the employer's future tax rate under Minnesota Statutes, section 268.047.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. Section 1 is effective the day following final enactment.

Sec. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 268.051, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

**Subd. 2a. Unemployment insurance tax reduction.**

(a) For purposes of this subdivision, "average high cost multiple" has the same meaning as in Code of Federal Regulations, title 20, section 606.3, as amended through the effective date of this section. Average high cost multiple is a United States Department of Labor calculation measuring state trust fund solvency.

(b) If the balance in the trust fund on December 31 of any year exceeds the average high cost multiple of 1.0, future unemployment taxes payable must be reduced by the amount of money above 1.0. The amount of the tax reduction for any employer is the same percentage of all money above 1.0, as the percentage of taxes paid by the employer for that calendar year is of the total amount of taxes paid by all taxpaying employers for that calendar year.

(c) The tax reduction only occurs if the balance in the trust fund on December 31 is four percent or more above the average high cost multiple of 1.0.

(d) The tax reduction applies to taxes owed between March 15 and December 15 of the year following the December 31 calculation under paragraph (b). If an employer had its tax account terminated, the tax reduction for that employer is not redistributed to other employers. A tax reduction for a predecessor employer is transferred to the successor employer only if there is a full transfer of the experience rating history.

83 (e) The tax reduction does not apply to employers that were at the maximum experience  
84 rating for the calendar year referred to in paragraph (b) or that were new employer in high  
85 experience rated industries for that calendar year.

86 (f) Computations under paragraph (b):

87 (1) are based upon taxes paid on or before February 15 of the calendar year following  
88 the year referred to in paragraph (b).

89 (2) are not subject to the rounding requirement of section 268.034; and

90 (3) do not include employers described in paragraph (e).

