

Chapter 2

2023 Regular Session

Subject Iron Ore Mining Industry Additional Unemployment Benefits

Bill S.F. 40

Analyst Marta James

Date January 25, 2023

Overview

This act was signed into law on January 25, 2023. It provides up to 26 weeks of additional unemployment benefits to eligible unemployed iron ore mining and explosive manufacturing industry workers.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Iron ore mining additional unemployment benefits program.
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Subd. 1. Availability of additional benefits. Authorizes additional unemployment insurance benefits for applicants laid off between April 3, 2022, and March 4, 2023, from (1) an employer in the iron ore mining industry that laid off 50 percent or more of their workforce during this time period, or (2) an employer in the explosive manufacturing industry supplying goods or services to an iron ore mining industry employer that ceased or substantially reduced their operations as described in clause (1).

Subd. 2. Eligibility requirements. Provides additional benefits to an applicant who has exhausted regular unemployment benefits and otherwise meets eligibility requirements under existing law. An applicant must establish a benefit account with wage credits of 50 percent or more from an employer described under subdivision 1. Additional benefits are available through the week ending January 27, 2024.

Subd. 3. Weekly and maximum amount of additional unemployment benefits. Allows a maximum of 26 weeks of additional benefits at the same amount per week as regular unemployment insurance benefits.

Subd. 4. Qualifying for a new regular benefit account. Provides that, if an eligible applicant under subdivision 1 exhausts regular benefits again becomes eligible to establish a new regular benefit account, the applicant must establish the new account. Also clarifies when an applicant must exhaust benefits on the new regular benefit account or must apply for additional benefits.

Section **Description**

Subd. 5. Charging of benefits. Provides that additional benefits paid under this act will not affect the experience rating of an employer under subdivision 1, clause (2), for future unemployment tax purposes. Also provides that reimbursing employers will not be charged for additional benefits paid under this act.

Subd. 6. Eligibility for federal Trade Readjustment Allowance benefits. Provides that applicants who have applied and been determined eligible for federal TRA benefits are not eligible for additional benefits under this act.

Effective date. Applies retroactively from August 14, 2022.



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