

ASSEMBLY, No. 5531

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 25, 2021

Sponsored by:
Assemblyman VINCENT MAZZEO
District 2 (Atlantic)

SYNOPSIS

Exempts certain commercial fishermen from coverage under "unemployment compensation law."

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT exempting certain commercial fishermen from coverage
2 under the "unemployment compensation law" and amending
3 R.S.43:21-19.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7
8 1. R.S.43:21-19 is amended to read as follows:
9 43:21-19. Definitions. As used in this chapter (R.S.43:21-1 et
10 seq.), unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

11 (a) (1) "Annual payroll" means the total amount of wages paid
12 during a calendar year (regardless of when earned) by an employer
13 for employment.

14 (2) "Average annual payroll" means the average of the annual
15 payrolls of any employer for the last three or five preceding
16 calendar years, whichever average is higher, except that any year or
17 years throughout which an employer has had no "annual payroll"
18 because of military service shall be deleted from the reckoning; the
19 "average annual payroll" in such case is to be determined on the
20 basis of the prior three or five calendar years in each of which the
21 employer had an "annual payroll" in the operation of his business, if
22 the employer resumes his business within 12 months after
23 separation, discharge or release from such service, under conditions
24 other than dishonorable, and makes application to have his "average
25 annual payroll" determined on the basis of such deletion within 12
26 months after he resumes his business; provided, however, that
27 "average annual payroll" solely for the purposes of paragraph (3) of
28 subsection (e) of R.S.43:21-7 means the average of the annual
29 payrolls of any employer on which he paid contributions to the
30 State disability benefits fund for the last three or five preceding
31 calendar years, whichever average is higher; provided further that
32 only those wages be included on which employer contributions have
33 been paid on or before January 31 (or the next succeeding day if
34 such January 31 is a Saturday or Sunday) immediately preceding
35 the beginning of the 12-month period for which the employer's
36 contribution rate is computed.

37 (b) "Benefits" means the money payments payable to an
38 individual, as provided in this chapter (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.), with
39 respect to his unemployment.

40 (c) (1) "Base year" with respect to benefit years commencing
41 on or after July 1, 1986, shall mean the first four of the last five
42 completed calendar quarters immediately preceding an individual's
43 benefit year.

44 With respect to a benefit year commencing on or after July 1,
45 1995, if an individual does not have sufficient qualifying weeks or

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 wages in his base year to qualify for benefits, the individual shall
2 have the option of designating that his base year shall be the
3 "alternative base year," which means the last four completed
4 calendar quarters immediately preceding the individual's benefit
5 year; except that, with respect to a benefit year commencing on or
6 after October 1, 1995, if the individual also does not have sufficient
7 qualifying weeks or wages in the last four completed calendar
8 quarters immediately preceding his benefit year to qualify for
9 benefits, "alternative base year" means the last three completed
10 calendar quarters immediately preceding his benefit year and, of the
11 calendar quarter in which the benefit year commences, the portion
12 of the quarter which occurs before the commencing of the benefit
13 year.

14 The division shall inform the individual of his options under this
15 section as amended by P.L.1995, c.234. If information regarding
16 weeks and wages for the calendar quarter or quarters immediately
17 preceding the benefit year is not available to the division from the
18 regular quarterly reports of wage information and the division is not
19 able to obtain the information using other means pursuant to State
20 or federal law, the division may base the determination of eligibility
21 for benefits on the affidavit of an individual with respect to weeks
22 and wages for that calendar quarter. The individual shall furnish
23 payroll documentation, if available, in support of the affidavit. A
24 determination of benefits based on an alternative base year shall be
25 adjusted when the quarterly report of wage information from the
26 employer is received if that information causes a change in the
27 determination.

28 (2) With respect to a benefit year commencing on or after June
29 1, 1990 for an individual who immediately preceding the benefit
30 year was subject to a disability compensable under the provisions of
31 the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law," P.L.1948, c.110
32 (C.43:21-25 et seq.), "base year" shall mean the first four of the last
33 five completed calendar quarters immediately preceding the
34 individual's period of disability, if the employment held by the
35 individual immediately preceding the period of disability is no
36 longer available at the conclusion of that period and the individual
37 files a valid claim for unemployment benefits after the conclusion
38 of that period. For the purposes of this paragraph, "period of
39 disability" means the period defined as a period of disability by
40 section 3 of the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law," P.L.1948,
41 c.110 (C.43:21-27). An individual who files a claim under the
42 provisions of this paragraph (2) shall not be regarded as having left
43 work voluntarily for the purposes of subsection (a) of R.S.43:21-5.

44 (3) With respect to a benefit year commencing on or after June
45 1, 1990 for an individual who immediately preceding the benefit
46 year was subject to a disability compensable under the provisions of
47 the workers' compensation law (chapter 15 of Title 34 of the
48 Revised Statutes), "base year" shall mean the first four of the last

1 five completed calendar quarters immediately preceding the
2 individual's period of disability, if the period of disability was not
3 longer than two years, if the employment held by the individual
4 immediately preceding the period of disability is no longer
5 available at the conclusion of that period and if the individual files a
6 valid claim for unemployment benefits after the conclusion of that
7 period. For the purposes of this paragraph, "period of disability"
8 means the period from the time at which the individual becomes
9 unable to work because of the compensable disability until the time
10 that the individual becomes able to resume work and continue work
11 on a permanent basis. An individual who files a claim under the
12 provisions of this paragraph (3) shall not be regarded as having left
13 work voluntarily for the purposes of subsection (a) of R.S.43:21-5.

14 (d) "Benefit year" with respect to any individual means the 364
15 consecutive calendar days beginning with the day on, or as of,
16 which he first files a valid claim for benefits, and thereafter
17 beginning with the day on, or as of, which the individual next files a
18 valid claim for benefits after the termination of his last preceding
19 benefit year. Any claim for benefits made in accordance with
20 subsection (a) of R.S.43:21-6 shall be deemed to be a "valid claim"
21 for the purpose of this subsection if (1) he is unemployed for the
22 week in which, or as of which, he files a claim for benefits; and (2)
23 he has fulfilled the conditions imposed by subsection (e) of
24 R.S.43:21-4.

25 (e) (1) "Division" means the Division of Unemployment and
26 Temporary Disability Insurance of the Department of Labor and
27 Workforce Development, and any transaction or exercise of
28 authority by the director of the division thereunder, or under this
29 chapter (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.), shall be deemed to be performed by
30 the division.

31 (2) "Controller" means the Office of the Assistant
32 Commissioner for Finance and Controller of the Department of
33 Labor and Workforce Development, established by the 1982
34 Reorganization Plan of the Department of Labor.

35 (f) "Contributions" means the money payments to the State
36 Unemployment Compensation Fund, required by R.S.43:21-7.
37 "Payments in lieu of contributions" means the money payments to
38 the State Unemployment Compensation Fund by employers electing
39 or required to make payments in lieu of contributions, as provided
40 in section 3 or section 4 of P.L.1971, c.346 (C.43:21-7.2 or 43:21-
41 7.3).

42 (g) "Employing unit" means the State or any of its
43 instrumentalities or any political subdivision thereof or any of its
44 instrumentalities or any instrumentality of more than one of the
45 foregoing or any instrumentality of any of the foregoing and one or
46 more other states or political subdivisions or any individual or type
47 of organization, any partnership, association, trust, estate, joint-
48 stock company, insurance company or corporation, whether

1 domestic or foreign, or the receiver, trustee in bankruptcy, trustee or
2 successor thereof, or the legal representative of a deceased person,
3 which has or subsequent to January 1, 1936, had in its employ one
4 or more individuals performing services for it within this State. All
5 individuals performing services within this State for any employing
6 unit which maintains two or more separate establishments within
7 this State shall be deemed to be employed by a single employing
8 unit for all the purposes of this chapter (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.). Each
9 individual employed to perform or to assist in performing the work
10 of any agent or employee of an employing unit shall be deemed to
11 be employed by such employing unit for all the purposes of this
12 chapter (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.), whether such individual was hired or
13 paid directly by such employing unit or by such agent or employee;
14 provided the employing unit had actual or constructive knowledge
15 of the work.

16 (h) "Employer" means:

17 (1) Any employing unit which in either the current or the
18 preceding calendar year paid remuneration for employment in the
19 amount of \$1,000.00 or more;

20 (2) Any employing unit (whether or not an employing unit at the
21 time of acquisition) which acquired the organization, trade or
22 business, or substantially all the assets thereof, of another which, at
23 the time of such acquisition, was an employer subject to this chapter
24 (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.);

25 (3) Any employing unit which acquired the organization, trade
26 or business, or substantially all the assets thereof, of another
27 employing unit and which, if treated as a single unit with such other
28 employing unit, would be an employer under paragraph (1) of this
29 subsection;

30 (4) Any employing unit which together with one or more other
31 employing units is owned or controlled (by legally enforceable
32 means or otherwise), directly or indirectly by the same interests, or
33 which owns or controls one or more other employing units (by
34 legally enforceable means or otherwise), and which, if treated as a
35 single unit with such other employing unit or interest, would be an
36 employer under paragraph (1) of this subsection;

37 (5) Any employing unit for which service in employment as
38 defined in R.S.43:21-19 (i) (1) (B) (i) is performed after December
39 31, 1971; and as defined in R.S.43:21-19 (i) (1) (B) (ii) is
40 performed after December 31, 1977;

41 (6) Any employing unit for which service in employment as
42 defined in R.S.43:21-19 (i) (1) (c) is performed after December 31,
43 1971 and which in either the current or the preceding calendar year
44 paid remuneration for employment in the amount of \$1,000.00 or
45 more;

46 (7) Any employing unit not an employer by reason of any other
47 paragraph of this subsection (h) for which, within either the current
48 or preceding calendar year, service is or was performed with respect

1 to which such employing unit is liable for any federal tax against
2 which credit may be taken for contributions required to be paid into
3 a state unemployment fund; or which, as a condition for approval of
4 the "unemployment compensation law" for full tax credit against
5 the tax imposed by the Federal Unemployment Tax Act, is required
6 pursuant to such act to be an employer under this chapter
7 (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.);

8 (8) (Deleted by amendment; P.L.1977, c.307.)

9 (9) (Deleted by amendment; P.L.1977, c.307.)

10 (10) (Deleted by amendment; P.L.1977, c.307.)

11 (11) Any employing unit subject to the provisions of the
12 Federal Unemployment Tax Act within either the current or the
13 preceding calendar year, except for employment hereinafter
14 excluded under paragraph (7) of subsection (i) of this section;

15 (12) Any employing unit for which agricultural labor in
16 employment as defined in R.S.43:21-19 (i) (1) (I) is performed after
17 December 31, 1977;

18 (13) Any employing unit for which domestic service in
19 employment as defined in R.S.43:21-19 (i) (1) (J) is performed after
20 December 31, 1977;

21 (14) Any employing unit which having become an employer
22 under the "unemployment compensation law" (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.),
23 has not under R.S.43:21-8 ceased to be an employer; or for the
24 effective period of its election pursuant to R.S.43:21-8, any other
25 employing unit which has elected to become fully subject to this
26 chapter (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.).

27 (i) (1) "Employment" means:

28 (A) Any service performed prior to January 1, 1972, which was
29 employment as defined in the "unemployment compensation law"
30 (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.) prior to such date, and, subject to the other
31 provisions of this subsection, service performed on or after January
32 1, 1972, including service in interstate commerce, performed for
33 remuneration or under any contract of hire, written or oral, express
34 or implied.

35 (B) (i) Service performed after December 31, 1971 by an
36 individual in the employ of this State or any of its instrumentalities
37 or in the employ of this State and one or more other states or their
38 instrumentalities for a hospital or institution of higher education
39 located in this State, if such service is not excluded from
40 "employment" under paragraph (D) below.

41 (ii) Service performed after December 31, 1977, in the employ
42 of this State or any of its instrumentalities or any political
43 subdivision thereof or any of its instrumentalities or any
44 instrumentality of more than one of the foregoing or any
45 instrumentality of the foregoing and one or more other states or
46 political subdivisions, if such service is not excluded from
47 "employment" under paragraph (D) below.

1 (C) Service performed after December 31, 1971 by an individual
2 in the employ of a religious, charitable, educational, or other
3 organization, which is excluded from "employment" as defined in
4 the Federal Unemployment Tax Act, solely by reason of section
5 3306 (c)(8) of that act, if such service is not excluded from
6 "employment" under paragraph (D) below.

7 (D) For the purposes of paragraphs (B) and (C), the term
8 "employment" does not apply to services performed

9 (i) In the employ of (I) a church or convention or association of
10 churches, or (II) an organization, or school which is operated
11 primarily for religious purposes and which is operated, supervised,
12 controlled or principally supported by a church or convention or
13 association of churches;

14 (ii) By a duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed minister of a
15 church in the exercise of his ministry or by a member of a religious
16 order in the exercise of duties required by such order;

17 (iii) Prior to January 1, 1978, in the employ of a school which
18 is not an institution of higher education, and after December 31,
19 1977, in the employ of a governmental entity referred to in
20 R.S.43:21-19 (i) (1) (B), if such service is performed by an
21 individual in the exercise of duties

22 (aa) as an elected official;

23 (bb) as a member of a legislative body, or a member of the
24 judiciary, of a state or political subdivision;

25 (cc) as a member of the State National Guard or Air National
26 Guard;

27 (dd) as an employee serving on a temporary basis in case of
28 fire, storm, snow, earthquake, flood or similar emergency;

29 (ee) in a position which, under or pursuant to the laws of this
30 State, is designated as a major nontenured policy making or
31 advisory position, or a policy making or advisory position, the
32 performance of the duties of which ordinarily does not require more
33 than eight hours per week; or

34 (iv) By an individual receiving rehabilitation or remunerative
35 work in a facility conducted for the purpose of carrying out a
36 program of rehabilitation of individuals whose earning capacity is
37 impaired by age or physical or mental deficiency or injury or
38 providing remunerative work for individuals who because of their
39 impaired physical or mental capacity cannot be readily absorbed in
40 the competitive labor market;

41 (v) By an individual receiving work-relief or work-training as
42 part of an unemployment work-relief or work-training program
43 assisted in whole or in part by any federal agency or an agency of a
44 state or political subdivision thereof; or

45 (vi) Prior to January 1, 1978, for a hospital in a State prison or
46 other State correctional institution by an inmate of the prison or
47 correctional institution and after December 31, 1977, by an inmate
48 of a custodial or penal institution.

1 (E) The term "employment" shall include the services of an
2 individual who is a citizen of the United States, performed outside
3 the United States after December 31, 1971 (except in Canada and in
4 the case of the Virgin Islands, after December 31, 1971) and prior
5 to January 1 of the year following the year in which the U.S.
6 Secretary of Labor approves the unemployment compensation law
7 of the Virgin Islands, under section 3304 (a) of the Internal
8 Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. s.3304 (a)) in the employ of an
9 American employer (other than the service which is deemed
10 employment under the provisions of R.S.43:21-19 (i) (2) or (5) or
11 the parallel provisions of another state's unemployment
12 compensation law), if

13 (i) The American employer's principal place of business in the
14 United States is located in this State; or

15 (ii) The American employer has no place of business in the
16 United States, but (I) the American employer is an individual who
17 is a resident of this State; or (II) the American employer is a
18 corporation which is organized under the laws of this State; or (III)
19 the American employer is a partnership or trust and the number of
20 partners or trustees who are residents of this State is greater than the
21 number who are residents of another state; or

22 (iii) None of the criteria of divisions (i) and (ii) of this
23 subparagraph (E) is met but the American employer has elected to
24 become an employer subject to the "unemployment compensation
25 law" (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.) in this State, or the American employer
26 having failed to elect to become an employer in any state, the
27 individual has filed a claim for benefits, based on such service,
28 under the law of this State;

29 (iv) An "American employer," for the purposes of this
30 subparagraph (E), means (I) an individual who is a resident of the
31 United States; or (II) a partnership, if two-thirds or more of the
32 partners are residents of the United States; or (III) a trust, if all the
33 trustees are residents of the United States; or (IV) a corporation
34 organized under the laws of the United States or of any state.

35 (F) Notwithstanding R.S.43:21-19 (i) (2), all service performed
36 after January 1, 1972 by an officer or member of the crew of an
37 American vessel or American aircraft on or in connection with such
38 vessel or aircraft, if the operating office from which the operations
39 of such vessel or aircraft operating within, or within and without,
40 the United States are ordinarily and regularly supervised, managed,
41 directed, and controlled, is within this State.

42 (G) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection,
43 service in this State with respect to which the taxes required to be
44 paid under any federal law imposing a tax against which credit may
45 be taken for contributions required to be paid into a state
46 unemployment fund or which as a condition for full tax credit
47 against the tax imposed by the Federal Unemployment Tax Act is

1 required to be covered under the "unemployment compensation
2 law" (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.).

3 (H) The term "United States" when used in a geographical sense
4 in subsection R.S.43:21-19 (i) includes the states, the District of
5 Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and, effective on the
6 day after the day on which the U.S. Secretary of Labor approves for
7 the first time under section 3304 (a) of the Internal Revenue Code
8 of 1986 (26 U.S.C. s.3304 (a)) an unemployment compensation law
9 submitted to the Secretary by the Virgin Islands for such approval,
10 the Virgin Islands.

11 (I) (i) Service performed after December 31, 1977 in
12 agricultural labor in a calendar year for an entity which is an
13 employer as defined in the "unemployment compensation law,"
14 (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.) as of January 1 of such year; or for an
15 employing unit which

16 (aa) during any calendar quarter in either the current or the
17 preceding calendar year paid remuneration in cash of \$20,000.00 or
18 more for individuals employed in agricultural labor, or

19 (bb) for some portion of a day in each of 20 different calendar
20 weeks, whether or not such weeks were consecutive, in either the
21 current or the preceding calendar year, employed in agricultural
22 labor 10 or more individuals, regardless of whether they were
23 employed at the same moment in time.

24 (ii) for the purposes of this subsection any individual who is a
25 member of a crew furnished by a crew leader to perform service in
26 agricultural labor for any other entity shall be treated as an
27 employee of such crew leader

28 (aa) if such crew leader holds a certification of registration
29 under the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection
30 Act, Pub.L.97-470 (29 U.S.C. s.1801 et seq.), or P.L.1971, c.192
31 (C.34:8A-7 et seq.); or substantially all the members of such crew
32 operate or maintain tractors, mechanized harvesting or cropdusting
33 equipment, or any other mechanized equipment, which is provided
34 by such crew leader; and

35 (bb) if such individual is not an employee of such other person
36 for whom services were performed.

37 (iii) For the purposes of subparagraph (I) (i) in the case of any
38 individual who is furnished by a crew leader to perform service in
39 agricultural labor or any other entity and who is not treated as an
40 employee of such crew leader under (I) (ii)

41 (aa) such other entity and not the crew leader shall be treated as
42 the employer of such individual; and

43 (bb) such other entity shall be treated as having paid cash
44 remuneration to such individual in an amount equal to the amount
45 of cash remuneration paid to such individual by the crew leader
46 (either on his own behalf or on behalf of such other entity) for the
47 service in agricultural labor performed for such other entity.

1 (iv) For the purpose of subparagraph (I)(ii), the term "crew
2 leader" means an individual who

3 (aa) furnishes individuals to perform service in agricultural
4 labor for any other entity;

5 (bb) pays (either on his own behalf or on behalf of such other
6 entity) the individuals so furnished by him for the service in
7 agricultural labor performed by them; and

8 (cc) has not entered into a written agreement with such other
9 entity under which such individual is designated as an employee of
10 such other entity.

11 (J) Domestic service after December 31, 1977 performed in the
12 private home of an employing unit which paid cash remuneration of
13 \$1,000.00 or more to one or more individuals for such domestic
14 service in any calendar quarter in the current or preceding calendar
15 year.

16 (2) The term "employment" shall include an individual's entire
17 service performed within or both within and without this State if:

18 (A) The service is localized in this State; or

19 (B) The service is not localized in any state but some of the
20 service is performed in this State, and (i) the base of operations, or,
21 if there is no base of operations, then the place from which such
22 service is directed or controlled, is in this State; or (ii) the base of
23 operations or place from which such service is directed or
24 controlled is not in any state in which some part of the service is
25 performed, but the individual's residence is in this State.

26 (3) Services performed within this State but not covered under
27 paragraph (2) of this subsection shall be deemed to be employment
28 subject to this chapter (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.) if contributions are not
29 required and paid with respect to such services under an
30 unemployment compensation law of any other state or of the federal
31 government.

32 (4) Services not covered under paragraph (2) of this subsection
33 and performed entirely without this State, with respect to no part of
34 which contributions are required and paid under an unemployment
35 compensation law of any other state or of the federal government,
36 shall be deemed to be employment subject to this chapter
37 (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.) if the individual performing such services is a
38 resident of this State and the employing unit for whom such
39 services are performed files with the division an election that the
40 entire service of such individual shall be deemed to be employment
41 subject to this chapter (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.).

42 (5) Service shall be deemed to be localized within a state if:

43 (A) The service is performed entirely within such state; or

44 (B) The service is performed both within and without such state,
45 but the service performed without such state is incidental to the
46 individual's service within the state; for example, is temporary or
47 transitory in nature or consists of isolated transactions.

1 (6) Services performed by an individual for remuneration shall
2 be deemed to be employment subject to this chapter (R.S.43:21-
3 1 et seq.) unless and until it is shown to the satisfaction of the
4 division that:

5 (A) Such individual has been and will continue to be free from
6 control or direction over the performance of such service, both
7 under his contract of service and in fact; and

8 (B) Such service is either outside the usual course of the
9 business for which such service is performed, or that such service is
10 performed outside of all the places of business of the enterprise for
11 which such service is performed; and

12 (C) Such individual is customarily engaged in an independently
13 established trade, occupation, profession or business.

14 (7) Provided that such services are also exempt under the
15 Federal Unemployment Tax Act, as amended, or that contributions
16 with respect to such services are not required to be paid into a state
17 unemployment fund as a condition for a tax offset credit against the
18 tax imposed by the Federal Unemployment Tax Act, as amended,
19 the term "employment" shall not include:

20 (A) Agricultural labor performed prior to January 1, 1978; and
21 after December 31, 1977, only if performed in a calendar year for
22 an entity which is not an employer as defined in the "unemployment
23 compensation law," (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.) as of January 1 of such
24 calendar year; or unless performed for an employing unit which

25 (i) during a calendar quarter in either the current or the
26 preceding calendar year paid remuneration in cash of \$20,000.00 or
27 more to individuals employed in agricultural labor, or

28 (ii) for some portion of a day in each of 20 different calendar
29 weeks, whether or not such weeks were consecutive, in either the
30 current or the preceding calendar year, employed in agricultural
31 labor 10 or more individuals, regardless of whether they were
32 employed at the same moment in time;

33 (B) Domestic service in a private home performed prior to
34 January 1, 1978; and after December 31, 1977, unless performed in
35 the private home of an employing unit which paid cash
36 remuneration of \$1,000.00 or more to one or more individuals for
37 such domestic service in any calendar quarter in the current or
38 preceding calendar year;

39 (C) Service performed by an individual in the employ of his son,
40 daughter or spouse, and service performed by a child under the age
41 of 18 in the employ of his father or mother;

42 (D) Service performed prior to January 1, 1978, in the employ of
43 this State or of any political subdivision thereof or of any
44 instrumentality of this State or its political subdivisions, except as
45 provided in R.S.43:21-19 (i) (1) (B) above, and service in the
46 employ of the South Jersey Port Corporation or its successors;

1 (E) Service performed in the employ of any other state or its
2 political subdivisions or of an instrumentality of any other state or
3 states or their political subdivisions to the extent that such
4 instrumentality is with respect to such service exempt under the
5 Constitution of the United States from the tax imposed under the
6 Federal Unemployment Tax Act, as amended, except as provided in
7 R.S.43:21-19 (i) (1) (B) above;

8 (F) Service performed in the employ of the United States
9 Government or of any instrumentality of the United States exempt
10 under the Constitution of the United States from the contributions
11 imposed by the "unemployment compensation law," except that to
12 the extent that the Congress of the United States shall permit states
13 to require any instrumentalities of the United States to make
14 payments into an unemployment fund under a state unemployment
15 compensation law, all of the provisions of this act shall be
16 applicable to such instrumentalities, and to service performed for
17 such instrumentalities, in the same manner, to the same extent and
18 on the same terms as to all other employers, employing units,
19 individuals and services; provided that if this State shall not be
20 certified for any year by the Secretary of Labor of the United States
21 under section 3304 of the federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986
22 (26 U.S.C. s.3304), the payments required of such instrumentalities
23 with respect to such year shall be refunded by the division from the
24 fund in the same manner and within the same period as is provided
25 in R.S.43:21-14 (f) with respect to contributions erroneously paid to
26 or collected by the division;

27 (G) Services performed in the employ of fraternal beneficiary
28 societies, orders, or associations operating under the lodge system
29 or for the exclusive benefit of the members of a fraternity itself
30 operating under the lodge system and providing for the payment of
31 life, sick, accident, or other benefits to the members of such society,
32 order, or association, or their dependents;

33 (H) Services performed as a member of the board of directors, a
34 board of trustees, a board of managers, or a committee of any bank,
35 building and loan, or savings and loan association, incorporated or
36 organized under the laws of this State or of the United States, where
37 such services do not constitute the principal employment of the
38 individual;

39 (I) Service with respect to which unemployment insurance is
40 payable under an unemployment insurance program established by
41 an Act of Congress;

42 (J) Service performed by agents of mutual fund brokers or
43 dealers in the sale of mutual funds or other securities, by agents of
44 insurance companies, exclusive of industrial insurance agents or by
45 agents of investment companies, if the compensation to such agents
46 for such services is wholly on a commission basis;

1 (K) Services performed by real estate salesmen or brokers who
2 are compensated wholly on a commission basis;

3 (L) Services performed in the employ of any veterans'
4 organization chartered by Act of Congress or of any auxiliary
5 thereof, no part of the net earnings of which organization, or
6 auxiliary thereof, inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or
7 individual;

8 (M) Service performed for or in behalf of the owner or operator
9 of any theater, ballroom, amusement hall or other place of
10 entertainment, not in excess of 10 weeks in any calendar year for
11 the same owner or operator, by any leader or musician of a band or
12 orchestra, commonly called a "name band," entertainer, vaudeville
13 artist, actor, actress, singer or other entertainer;

14 (N) Services performed after January 1, 1973 by an individual
15 for a labor union organization, known and recognized as a union
16 local, as a member of a committee or committees reimbursed by the
17 union local for time lost from regular employment, or as a part-time
18 officer of a union local and the remuneration for such services is
19 less than \$1,000.00 in a calendar year;

20 (O) Services performed in the sale or distribution of merchandise
21 by home-to-home salespersons or in-the-home demonstrators whose
22 remuneration consists wholly of commissions or commissions and
23 bonuses;

24 (P) Service performed in the employ of a foreign government,
25 including service as a consular, nondiplomatic representative, or
26 other officer or employee;

27 (Q) Service performed in the employ of an instrumentality
28 wholly owned by a foreign government if (i) the service is of a
29 character similar to that performed in foreign countries by
30 employees of the United States Government or of an instrumentality
31 thereof, and (ii) the division finds that the United States Secretary
32 of State has certified to the United States Secretary of the Treasury
33 that the foreign government, with respect to whose instrumentality
34 exemption is claimed, grants an equivalent exemption with respect
35 to similar services performed in the foreign country by employees
36 of the United States Government and of instrumentalities thereof;

37 (R) Service in the employ of an international organization
38 entitled to enjoy the privileges, exemptions and immunities under
39 the International Organizations Immunities Act
40 (22 U.S.C. s.288 et seq.);

41 (S) Service covered by an election duly approved by an agency
42 charged with the administration of any other state or federal
43 unemployment compensation or employment security law, in
44 accordance with an arrangement pursuant to R.S.43:21-21 during
45 the effective period of such election;

46 (T) Service performed in the employ of a school, college, or
47 university if such service is performed (i) by a student enrolled at
48 such school, college, or university on a full-time basis in an

1 educational program or completing such educational program
2 leading to a degree at any of the severally recognized levels, or (ii)
3 by the spouse of such a student, if such spouse is advised at the time
4 such spouse commences to perform such service that (I) the
5 employment of such spouse to perform such service is provided
6 under a program to provide financial assistance to such student by
7 such school, college, or university, and (II) such employment will
8 not be covered by any program of unemployment insurance;

9 (U) Service performed by an individual who is enrolled at a
10 nonprofit or public educational institution which normally
11 maintains a regular faculty and curriculum and normally has a
12 regularly organized body of students in attendance at the place
13 where its educational activities are carried on, as a student in a full-
14 time program, taken for credit at such institution, which combines
15 academic instruction with work experience, if such service is an
16 integral part of such program, and such institution has so certified
17 to the employer, except that this subparagraph shall not apply to
18 service performed in a program established for or on behalf of an
19 employer or group of employers;

20 (V) Service performed in the employ of a hospital, if such
21 service is performed by a patient of the hospital; service performed
22 as a student nurse in the employ of a hospital or a nurses' training
23 school by an individual who is enrolled and regularly attending
24 classes in a nurses' training school approved under the laws of this
25 State;

26 (W) Services performed after the effective date of this
27 amendatory act by agents of mutual benefit associations if the
28 compensation to such agents for such services is wholly on a
29 commission basis;

30 (X) Services performed by operators of motor vehicles weighing
31 18,000 pounds or more, licensed for commercial use and used for
32 the highway movement of motor freight, who own their equipment
33 or who lease or finance the purchase of their equipment through an
34 entity which is not owned or controlled directly or indirectly by the
35 entity for which the services were performed and who were
36 compensated by receiving a percentage of the gross revenue
37 generated by the transportation move or by a schedule of payment
38 based on the distance and weight of the transportation move;

39 (Y) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2009, c.211.)

40 (Z) Services performed, using facilities provided by a travel
41 agent, by a person, commonly known as an outside travel agent,
42 who acts as an independent contractor, is paid on a commission
43 basis, sets his own work schedule and receives no benefits, sick
44 leave, vacation or other leave from the travel agent owning the
45 facilities.

46 (AA) Services provided by a commercial fisherman whose
47 compensation is comprised solely of a percentage of fish caught or
48 a percentage of the proceeds from the sale of the catch.

1 (8) If one-half or more of the services in any pay period
2 performed by an individual for an employing unit constitutes
3 employment, all the services of such individual shall be deemed to
4 be employment; but if more than one-half of the service in any pay
5 period performed by an individual for an employing unit does not
6 constitute employment, then none of the service of such individual
7 shall be deemed to be employment. As used in this paragraph, the
8 term "pay period" means a period of not more than 31 consecutive
9 days for which a payment for service is ordinarily made by an
10 employing unit to individuals in its employ.

11 (9) Services performed by the owner of a limousine franchise
12 (franchisee) shall not be deemed to be employment subject to the
13 "unemployment compensation law," R.S.43:21-1 et seq., with
14 regard to the franchisor if:

15 (A) The limousine franchisee is incorporated;

16 (B) The franchisee is subject to regulation by the Interstate
17 Commerce Commission;

18 (C) The limousine franchise exists pursuant to a written
19 franchise arrangement between the franchisee and the franchisor as
20 defined by section 3 of P.L.1971, c.356 (C.56:10-3); and

21 (D) The franchisee registers with the Department of Labor and
22 Workforce Development and receives an employer registration
23 number.

24 (10) Services performed by a legal transcriber, or certified court
25 reporter certified pursuant to P.L.1940, c.175 (C.45:15B-1 et seq.),
26 shall not be deemed to be employment subject to the
27 "unemployment compensation law," R.S.43:21-1 et seq., if those
28 services are provided to a third party by the transcriber or reporter
29 who is referred to the third party pursuant to an agreement with
30 another legal transcriber or legal transcription service, or certified
31 court reporter or court reporting service, on a freelance basis,
32 compensation for which is based upon a fee per transcript page, flat
33 attendance fee, or other flat minimum fee, or combination thereof,
34 set forth in the agreement.

35 For purposes of this paragraph (10): "legal transcription service"
36 and "legal transcribing" mean making use, by audio, video or voice
37 recording, of a verbatim record of court proceedings, depositions,
38 other judicial proceedings, meetings of boards, agencies,
39 corporations, or other bodies or groups, and causing that record to
40 be printed in readable form or produced on a computer screen in
41 readable form; and "legal transcriber" means a person who engages
42 in "legal transcribing."

43 (j) "Employment office" means a free public employment
44 office, or branch thereof operated by this State or maintained as a
45 part of a State-controlled system of public employment offices.

1 (k) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1984, c.24.)

2 (l) "State" includes, in addition to the states of the United States
3 of America, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands and Puerto
4 Rico.

5 (m) "Unemployment."

6 (1) An individual shall be deemed "unemployed" for any week
7 during which:

8 (A) The individual is not engaged in full-time work and with
9 respect to which his remuneration is less than his weekly benefit
10 rate, including any week during which he is on vacation without
11 pay; provided such vacation is not the result of the individual's
12 voluntary action, except that for benefit years commencing on or
13 after July 1, 1984, an officer of a corporation, or a person who has
14 more than a 5% equitable or debt interest in the corporation, whose
15 claim for benefits is based on wages with that corporation shall not
16 be deemed to be unemployed in any week during the individual's
17 term of office or ownership in the corporation; or

18 (B) The individual is eligible for and receiving a self-
19 employment assistance allowance pursuant to the requirements of
20 P.L.1995, c.394 (C.43:21-67 et al.).

21 (2) The term "remuneration" with respect to any individual for
22 benefit years commencing on or after July 1, 1961, and as used in
23 this subsection, shall include only that part of the same which in
24 any week exceeds 20% of his weekly benefit rate (fractional parts
25 of a dollar omitted) or \$5.00, whichever is the larger, and shall not
26 include any moneys paid to an individual by a county board of
27 elections for work as a board worker on an election day.

28 (3) An individual's week of unemployment shall be deemed to
29 commence only after the individual has filed a claim at an
30 unemployment insurance claims office, except as the division may
31 by regulation otherwise prescribe.

32 (n) "Unemployment compensation administration fund" means
33 the unemployment compensation administration fund established by
34 this chapter (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.), from which administrative
35 expenses under this chapter (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.) shall be paid.

36 (o) "Wages" means remuneration paid by employers for
37 employment. If a worker receives gratuities regularly in the course
38 of his employment from other than his employer, his "wages" shall
39 also include the gratuities so received, if reported in writing to his
40 employer in accordance with regulations of the division, and if not
41 so reported, his "wages" shall be determined in accordance with the
42 minimum wage rates prescribed under any labor law or regulation
43 of this State or of the United States, or the amount of remuneration
44 actually received by the employee from his employer, whichever is
45 the higher.

46 (p) "Remuneration" means all compensation for personal
47 services, including commission and bonuses and the cash value of
48 all compensation in any medium other than cash.

1 (q) "Week" means for benefit years commencing on or after
2 October 1, 1984, the calendar week ending at midnight Saturday, or
3 as the division may by regulation prescribe.

4 (r) "Calendar quarter" means the period of three consecutive
5 calendar months ending March 31, June 30, September 30, or
6 December 31.

7 (s) "Investment company" means any company as defined in
8 subsection a. of section 1 of P.L.1938, c.322 (C.17:16A-1).

9 (t) (1) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2001, c.17).

10 (2) "Base week," commencing on or after January 1, 1996 and
11 before January 1, 2001, means:

12 (A) Any calendar week during which the individual earned in
13 employment from an employer remuneration not less than an
14 amount which is 20% of the Statewide average weekly
15 remuneration defined in subsection (c) of R.S.43:21-3 which
16 amount shall be adjusted to the next higher multiple of \$1.00 if not
17 already a multiple thereof, except that if in any calendar week an
18 individual subject to this subparagraph (A) is in employment with
19 more than one employer, the individual may in that calendar week
20 establish a base week with respect to each of the employers from
21 whom the individual earns remuneration equal to not less than the
22 amount defined in this subparagraph (A) during that week; or

23 (B) If the individual does not establish in his base year 20 or
24 more base weeks as defined in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph
25 (2), any calendar week of an individual's base year during which the
26 individual earned in employment from an employer remuneration
27 not less than an amount 20 times the minimum wage in effect
28 pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1966, c.113 (C.34:11-56a4) on October
29 1 of the calendar year preceding the calendar year in which the
30 benefit year commences, which amount shall be adjusted to the next
31 higher multiple of \$1.00 if not already a multiple thereof, except
32 that if in any calendar week an individual subject to this
33 subparagraph (B) is in employment with more than one employer,
34 the individual may in that calendar week establish a base week with
35 respect to each of the employers from whom the individual earns
36 remuneration not less than the amount defined in this subparagraph
37 (B) during that week.

38 (3) "Base week," commencing on or after January 1, 2001,
39 means any calendar week during which the individual earned in
40 employment from an employer remuneration not less than an
41 amount 20 times the minimum wage in effect pursuant to section 5
42 of P.L.1966, c.113 (C.34:11-56a4) on October 1 of the calendar
43 year preceding the calendar year in which the benefit year
44 commences, which amount shall be adjusted to the next higher
45 multiple of \$1.00 if not already a multiple thereof, except that if in
46 any calendar week an individual subject to this paragraph (3) is in
47 employment with more than one employer, the individual may in
48 that calendar week establish a base week with respect to each of the

1 employers from whom the individual earns remuneration equal to
2 not less than the amount defined in this paragraph (3) during that
3 week.

4 (u) "Average weekly wage" means the amount derived by
5 dividing an individual's total wages received during his base year
6 base weeks (as defined in subsection (t) of this section) from that
7 most recent base year employer with whom he has established at
8 least 20 base weeks, by the number of base weeks in which such
9 wages were earned. In the event that such claimant had no employer
10 in his base year with whom he had established at least 20 base
11 weeks, then such individual's average weekly wage shall be
12 computed as if all of his base week wages were received from one
13 employer and as if all his base weeks of employment had been
14 performed in the employ of one employer.

15 For the purpose of computing the average weekly wage, the
16 monetary alternative in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2) of
17 subsection (e) of R.S.43:21-4 shall only apply in those instances
18 where the individual did not have at least 20 base weeks in the base
19 year. For benefit years commencing on or after July 1, 1986,
20 "average weekly wage" means the amount derived by dividing an
21 individual's total base year wages by the number of base weeks
22 worked by the individual during the base year; provided that for the
23 purpose of computing the average weekly wage, the maximum
24 number of base weeks used in the divisor shall be 52.

25 (v) "Initial determination" means, subject to the provisions of
26 R.S.43:21-6(b)(2) and (3), a determination of benefit rights as
27 measured by an eligible individual's base year employment with a
28 single employer covering all periods of employment with that
29 employer during the base year.

30 (w) "Last date of employment" means the last calendar day in
31 the base year of an individual on which he performed services in
32 employment for a given employer.

33 (x) "Most recent base year employer" means that employer with
34 whom the individual most recently, in point of time, performed
35 service in employment in the base year.

36 (y) (1) "Educational institution" means any public or other
37 nonprofit institution (including an institution of higher education):

38 (A) In which participants, trainees, or students are offered an
39 organized course of study or training designed to transfer to them
40 knowledge, skills, information, doctrines, attitudes or abilities from,
41 by or under the guidance of an instructor or teacher;

42 (B) Which is approved, licensed or issued a permit to operate as
43 a school by the State Department of Education or other government
44 agency that is authorized within the State to approve, license or
45 issue a permit for the operation of a school; and

46 (C) Which offers courses of study or training which may be
47 academic, technical, trade, or preparation for gainful employment in
48 a recognized occupation.

1 (2) "Institution of higher education" means an educational
2 institution which:

3 (A) Admits as regular students only individuals having a
4 certificate of graduation from a high school, or the recognized
5 equivalent of such a certificate;

6 (B) Is legally authorized in this State to provide a program of
7 education beyond high school;

8 (C) Provides an educational program for which it awards a
9 bachelor's or higher degree, or provides a program which is
10 acceptable for full credit toward such a degree, a program of post-
11 graduate or post-doctoral studies, or a program of training to
12 prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized
13 occupation; and

14 (D) Is a public or other nonprofit institution.

15 Notwithstanding any of the foregoing provisions of this
16 subsection, all colleges and universities in this State are institutions
17 of higher education for purposes of this section.

18 (z) "Hospital" means an institution which has been licensed,
19 certified or approved under the law of this State as a hospital.

20 (cf: P.L.2017, c.230)

21

22 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

23

24

25 STATEMENT

26

27 This bill exempts from coverage under the "unemployment
28 compensation law," R.S.43:21-1 et seq., any services provided by a
29 commercial fisherman whose compensation is comprised solely of a
30 percentage of fish caught or a percentage of the proceeds from the
31 sale of the catch. The exempted commercial fisherman would not
32 be subject to unemployment insurance (UI) taxes and not be eligible
33 for UI benefits.