

PREFACE

The Comparison of State Unemployment Insurance Laws provides state-by-state information on workers covered, benefit eligibility, methods of financing, and other areas of interest in the Unemployment Insurance (UI) program. It also includes information on the temporary disability programs operated in six states. The Comparison is published annually. This edition reflects the provisions of state law as of January 1, 2012.

The Comparison is issued solely for informational, reference, and research purposes. It is not an official interpretation of state UI laws. The state statute should be consulted for the full text of state law. Unless otherwise noted, the Comparison generally reflects state law, but not official interpretations of state laws, which are found in state rules and regulations, administrative and court decisions, and opinions of attorneys general.

We recognize that the Comparison is useful only if it contains accurate data. States are encouraged to advise us of any needed corrections, either through their Regional Offices or through the contacts listed below. All users are invited to provide comments on the Comparison. We would like to thank those states that supplied updates and corrections.

The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, Pub. L. 112-96, enacted on February 22, 2012, amended permanent Federal UI law in several ways. Amendments include: the extension and modification of the Emergency Unemployment Compensation program; temporary extension of the 100 percent Federal funding of sharable extended benefits; able and available, and work search requirements for individuals; requirements that states offset certain overpayments against benefit payments; and limited authority to test UI applicants for drugs. In this edition, the updates regarding Federal programs reflect the amendments in Pub. L. 112-96. However, because the Comparison reflects state law as of January 1, 2012, any state law amendments that will have been made to conform to the UI provisions in this act will be reflected in subsequent editions of the Comparison. Additional information on the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 can be found at the following link:
<http://www.ows.doleta.gov/unemploy/jobcreat.asp>.

Several modifications have been made to the prior version of Table 5-2 on Voluntary Leaving – Good Cause to improve readability. Information in the prior table, may now be found in: Table 5-2 – Voluntary Leaving – Good Personal Cause – Reasons Frequently Cited in State Law; Table 5-3 – Voluntary Leaving – Good Personal Cause – To Join the Armed Forces; Table 5-4 – Voluntary Leaving – Good Personal Cause – Domestic Violence; Table 5-5 – Voluntary Leaving – Good Personal Cause – To Perform Marital, Domestic, or Filial Obligations; and Table 5-6 – Voluntary Leaving – Good Personal Cause – Quit to Marry or to Follow Spouse.

Reflecting increased interest in the topic and the new requirement in Pub. L. 112-96, a new Table 5-15 has been added to the Comparison to reflect state law provisions on state's minimum work search requirements.

The remaining tables in Chapter 5 have been renumbered to reflect these changes.

The Comparison is available online at <http://www.oui.doleta.gov/unemploy/statelaws.asp#Statelaw>. Other documents available online are listed in Appendix II of the Comparison.

Any comments or corrections may be directed to one of the following staff:

Loryn Lancaster
(202) 693-2994
lancaster.loryn@dol.gov

Agnes Wells
(202) 693-2996
wells.agnes@dol.gov

Comments may also be mailed to either of the above at the following address:

U.S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration, OUI/DL
Room S-4524
Washington, D.C. 20210

State-specific information on filing a claim for unemployment benefits, employment assistance, or employer information is available online at <http://www.unemploymentinsurance.doleta.gov>. Click on the blue map and, on the next screen, click on the appropriate state.