

P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 346, *approved January 10, 2022*

Senate, No. 3501

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-
10 1 et 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

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 completed calendar quarters immediately preceding an individual's
2 benefit year.

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

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

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

1 (3) With respect to a benefit year commencing on or after June
2 1, 1990 for an individual who immediately preceding the benefit
3 year was subject to a disability compensable under the provisions of
4 the workers' compensation law (chapter 15 of Title 34 of the
5 Revised Statutes), "base year" shall mean the first four of the last
6 five completed calendar quarters immediately preceding the
7 individual's period of disability, if the period of disability was not
8 longer than two years, if the employment held by the individual
9 immediately preceding the period of disability is no longer
10 available at the conclusion of that period and if the individual files a
11 valid claim for unemployment benefits after the conclusion of that
12 period. For the purposes of this paragraph, "period of disability"
13 means the period from the time at which the individual becomes
14 unable to work because of the compensable disability until the time
15 that the individual becomes able to resume work and continue work
16 on a permanent basis. An individual who files a claim under the
17 provisions of this paragraph (3) shall not be regarded as having left
18 work voluntarily for the purposes of subsection (a) of R.S.43:21-5.

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

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

36 (2) "Controller" means the Office of the Assistant
37 Commissioner for Finance and Controller of the Department of
38 Labor and Workforce Development, established by the 1982
39 Reorganization Plan of the Department of Labor.

40 (f) "Contributions" means the money payments to the State
41 Unemployment Compensation Fund, required by R.S.43:21-7.
42 "Payments in lieu of contributions" means the money payments to
43 the State Unemployment Compensation Fund by employers electing
44 or required to make payments in lieu of contributions, as provided
45 in section 3 or section 4 of P.L.1971, c.346 (C.43:21-7.2 or 43:21-
46 7.3).

47 (g) "Employing unit" means the State or any of its
48 instrumentalities or any political subdivision thereof or any of its

1 instrumentalities or any instrumentality of more than one of the
2 foregoing or any instrumentality of any of the foregoing and one or
3 more other states or political subdivisions or any individual or type
4 of organization, any partnership, association, trust, estate, joint-
5 stock company, insurance company or corporation, whether
6 domestic or foreign, or the receiver, trustee in bankruptcy, trustee or
7 successor thereof, or the legal representative of a deceased person,
8 which has or subsequent to January 1, 1936, had in its employ one
9 or more individuals performing services for it within this State. All
10 individuals performing services within this State for any employing
11 unit which maintains two or more separate establishments within
12 this State shall be deemed to be employed by a single employing
13 unit for all the purposes of this chapter (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.). Each
14 individual employed to perform or to assist in performing the work
15 of any agent or employee of an employing unit shall be deemed to
16 be employed by such employing unit for all the purposes of this
17 chapter (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.), whether such individual was hired or
18 paid directly by such employing unit or by such agent or employee;
19 provided the employing unit had actual or constructive knowledge
20 of the work.

21 (h) "Employer" means:

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

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

30 (3) Any employing unit which acquired the organization, trade
31 or business, or substantially all the assets thereof, of another
32 employing unit and which, if treated as a single unit with such other
33 employing unit, would be an employer under paragraph (1) of this
34 subsection;

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

42 (5) Any employing unit for which service in employment as
43 defined in R.S.43:21-19 (i) (1) (B) (i) is performed after December
44 31, 1971; and as defined in R.S.43:21-19 (i) (1) (B) (ii) is
45 performed after December 31, 1977;

46 (6) Any employing unit for which service in employment as
47 defined in R.S.43:21-19 (i) (1) (c) is performed after December 31,
48 1971 and which in either the current or the preceding calendar year

1 paid remuneration for employment in the amount of \$1,000.00 or
2 more;

3 (7) Any employing unit not an employer by reason of any other
4 paragraph of this subsection (h) for which, within either the current
5 or preceding calendar year, service is or was performed with respect
6 to which such employing unit is liable for any federal tax against
7 which credit may be taken for contributions required to be paid into
8 a state unemployment fund; or which, as a condition for approval of
9 the "unemployment compensation law" for full tax credit against
10 the tax imposed by the Federal Unemployment Tax Act, is required
11 pursuant to such act to be an employer under this chapter
12 (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.);

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

33 (A) Any service performed prior to January 1, 1972, which was
34 employment as defined in the "unemployment compensation law"
35 (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.) prior to such date, and, subject to the other
36 provisions of this subsection, service performed on or after January
37 1, 1972, including service in interstate commerce, performed for
38 remuneration or under any contract of hire, written or oral, express
39 or implied.

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

46 (ii) Service performed after December 31, 1977, in the employ
47 of this State or any of its instrumentalities or any political
48 subdivision thereof or any of its instrumentalities or any

1 instrumentality of more than one of the foregoing or any
2 instrumentality of the foregoing and one or more other states or
3 political subdivisions, if such service is not excluded from
4 "employment" under paragraph (D) below.

5 (C) Service performed after December 31, 1971 by an individual
6 in the employ of a religious, charitable, educational, or other
7 organization, which is excluded from "employment" as defined in
8 the Federal Unemployment Tax Act, solely by reason of section
9 3306 (c)(8) of that act, if such service is not excluded from
10 "employment" under paragraph (D) below.

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

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

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

21 (iii) Prior to January 1, 1978, in the employ of a school which
22 is not an institution of higher education, and after December 31,
23 1977, in the employ of a governmental entity referred to in
24 R.S.43:21-19 (i) (1) (B), if such service is performed by an
25 individual in the exercise of duties

26 (aa) as an elected official;

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

29 (cc) as a member of the State National Guard or Air National
30 Guard;

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

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

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

45 (v) By an individual receiving work-relief or work-training as
46 part of an unemployment work-relief or work-training program
47 assisted in whole or in part by any federal agency or an agency of a
48 state or political subdivision thereof; or

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

46 (G) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection,
47 service in this State with respect to which the taxes required to be
48 paid under any federal law imposing a tax against which credit may

1 be taken for contributions required to be paid into a state
2 unemployment fund or which as a condition for full tax credit
3 against the tax imposed by the Federal Unemployment Tax Act is
4 required to be covered under the "unemployment compensation
5 law" (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

46 (bb) such other entity shall be treated as having paid cash
47 remuneration to such individual in an amount equal to the amount
48 of cash remuneration paid to such individual by the crew leader

- 1 (either on his own behalf or on behalf of such other entity) for the
2 service in agricultural labor performed for such other entity.
- 3 (iv) For the purpose of subparagraph (I)(ii), the term "crew
4 leader" means an individual who
- 5 (aa) furnishes individuals to perform service in agricultural
6 labor for any other entity;
- 7 (bb) pays (either on his own behalf or on behalf of such other
8 entity) the individuals so furnished by him for the service in
9 agricultural labor performed by them; and
- 10 (cc) has not entered into a written agreement with such other
11 entity under which such individual is designated as an employee of
12 such other entity.
- 13 (J) Domestic service after December 31, 1977 performed in the
14 private home of an employing unit which paid cash remuneration of
15 \$1,000.00 or more to one or more individuals for such domestic
16 service in any calendar quarter in the current or preceding calendar
17 year.
- 18 (2) The term "employment" shall include an individual's entire
19 service performed within or both within and without this State if:
- 20 (A) The service is localized in this State; or
- 21 (B) The service is not localized in any state but some of the
22 service is performed in this State, and (i) the base of operations, or,
23 if there is no base of operations, then the place from which such
24 service is directed or controlled, is in this State; or (ii) the base of
25 operations or place from which such service is directed or
26 controlled is not in any state in which some part of the service is
27 performed, but the individual's residence is in this State.
- 28 (3) Services performed within this State but not covered under
29 paragraph (2) of this subsection shall be deemed to be employment
30 subject to this chapter (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.) if contributions are not
31 required and paid with respect to such services under an
32 unemployment compensation law of any other state or of the federal
33 government.
- 34 (4) Services not covered under paragraph (2) of this subsection
35 and performed entirely without this State, with respect to no part of
36 which contributions are required and paid under an unemployment
37 compensation law of any other state or of the federal government,
38 shall be deemed to be employment subject to this chapter
39 (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.) if the individual performing such services is a
40 resident of this State and the employing unit for whom such
41 services are performed files with the division an election that the
42 entire service of such individual shall be deemed to be employment
43 subject to this chapter (R.S.43:21-1 et seq.).
- 44 (5) Service shall be deemed to be localized within a state if:
- 45 (A) The service is performed entirely within such state; or
- 46 (B) The service is performed both within and without such state,
47 but the service performed without such state is incidental to the

1 individual's service within the state; for example, is temporary or
2 transitory in nature or consists of isolated transactions.

3 (6) Services performed by an individual for remuneration shall
4 be deemed to be employment subject to this chapter (R.S.43:21-
5 1 et seq.) unless and until it is shown to the satisfaction of the
6 division that:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

44 (D) Service performed prior to January 1, 1978, in the employ of
45 this State or of any political subdivision thereof or of any
46 instrumentality of this State or its political subdivisions, except as
47 provided in R.S.43:21-19 (i) (1) (B) above, and service in the
48 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;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

44 (T) Service performed in the employ of a school, college, or
45 university if such service is performed (i) by a student enrolled at
46 such school, college, or university on a full-time basis in an
47 educational program or completing such educational program
48 leading to a degree at any of the severally recognized levels, or (ii)

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

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

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

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

28 (X) Services performed by operators of motor vehicles weighing
29 18,000 pounds or more, licensed for commercial use and used for
30 the highway movement of motor freight, who own their equipment
31 or who lease or finance the purchase of their equipment through an
32 entity which is not owned or controlled directly or indirectly by the
33 entity for which the services were performed and who were
34 compensated by receiving a percentage of the gross revenue
35 generated by the transportation move or by a schedule of payment
36 based on the distance and weight of the transportation move;

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

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

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

47 (8) If one-half or more of the services in any pay period
48 performed by an individual for an employing unit constitutes

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

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

13 (A) The limousine franchisee is incorporated;

14 (B) The franchisee is subject to regulation by the Interstate
15 Commerce Commission;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

48 (m) "Unemployment."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19
20 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

21 22 23 STATEMENT

24
25 This bill exempts from coverage under the "unemployment
26 compensation law," R.S.43:21-1 et seq., any services provided by a
27 commercial fisherman whose compensation is comprised solely of a
28 percentage of fish caught or a percentage of the proceeds from the
29 sale of the catch. The exempted commercial fisherman would not
30 be subject to unemployment insurance (UI) taxes and not be eligible
31 for UI benefits.

32
33
34
35
36 Exempts certain commercial fishermen from coverage under
37 "unemployment compensation law."