SENATE BILL No. 392

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 22-4.

Synopsis: Work sharing unemployment benefits program. Establishes a work sharing unemployment insurance program. Requires an employer that desires to participate in the work sharing unemployment insurance program to submit a work sharing plan for approval by the commissioner of the department of workforce development. Establishes the work sharing benefit as equal to an affected employee's unemployment benefit reduced by a percentage equal to the percentage of the employee's normal weekly work hours that the employee works under the approved work sharing plan.

Effective: July 1, 2020.

Bassler

January 13, 2020, read first time and referred to Committee on Pensions and Labor.



Introduced

Second Regular Session of the 121st General Assembly (2020)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in this style type, and deletions will appear in this style type.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or *this style type* reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2019 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 392

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning labor and safety.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 22-4-15-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.224-2017, 2 SECTION 10, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE 3 JULY 1, 2020]: Sec. 1. (a) Regarding an individual's most recent 4 separation from employment before filing an initial or additional claim 5 for benefits, an individual who voluntarily left the employment without 6 good cause in connection with the work or was discharged from the 7 employment for just cause is ineligible for waiting period or benefit 8 rights for the week in which the disqualifying separation occurred and 9 until: 10

(1) the individual has earned remuneration in employment in at least eight (8) weeks; and

(2) the remuneration earned equals or exceeds the product of theweekly benefit amount multiplied by eight (8).

14 If the qualification amount has not been earned at the expiration of an 15 individual's benefit period, the unearned amount shall be carried 16 forward to an extended benefit period or to the benefit period of a 17 subsequent claim.



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1 2	(b) When it has been determined that an individual has been separated from employment under disqualifying conditions as outlined
3	in this section, the maximum benefit amount of the individual's current
4	claim, as initially determined, shall be reduced by an amount
5	determined as follows:
6	(1) For the first separation from employment under disqualifying
7	conditions, the maximum benefit amount of the individual's
8	current claim is equal to the result of:
9	(A) the maximum benefit amount of the individual's current
10	claim, as initially determined; multiplied by
11	(B) seventy-five percent (75%);
12	rounded (if not already a multiple of one dollar $(\$1)$) to the next
13	higher dollar.
14	(2) For the second separation from employment under
15	disqualifying conditions, the maximum benefit amount of the
16	individual's current claim is equal to the result of:
17	(A) the maximum benefit amount of the individual's current
18	claim determined under subdivision (1); multiplied by
19	(B) eighty-five percent (85%);
20	rounded (if not already a multiple of one dollar (\$1)) to the next
21	higher dollar.
22	(3) For the third and any subsequent separation from employment
23	under disqualifying conditions, the maximum benefit amount of
24	the individual's current claim is equal to the result of:
25	(A) the maximum benefit amount of the individual's current
26	claim determined under subdivision (2); multiplied by
27	(B) ninety percent (90%);
28	rounded (if not already a multiple of one dollar (\$1)) to the next
29	higher dollar.
30	(c) The disqualifications provided in this section shall be subject to
31	the following modifications:
32	(1) An individual shall not be subject to disqualification because
33	of separation from the individual's employment if:
34	(A) the individual left to accept with another employer
35	previously secured permanent full-time work which offered
36	reasonable expectation of continued covered employment and
37	betterment of wages or working conditions and thereafter was
38	employed on said job;
39	(B) having been simultaneously employed by two (2)
40	employers, the individual leaves one (1) such employer
41	voluntarily without good cause in connection with the work
42	but remains in employment with the second employer with a

1	reasonable expectation of continued employment; or
2	(C) the individual left to accept recall made by a base period
3	employer.
3 4 5	(2) An individual whose unemployment is the result of medically
	substantiated physical disability and who is involuntarily
6	unemployed after having made reasonable efforts to maintain the
7	employment relationship shall not be subject to disqualification
8	under this section for such separation.
9	(3) An individual who left work to enter the armed forces of the
10	United States shall not be subject to disqualification under this
11	section for such leaving of work.
12	(4) An individual whose employment is terminated under the
13	compulsory retirement provision of a collective bargaining
14	agreement to which the employer is a party, or under any other
15	plan, system, or program, public or private, providing for
16	compulsory retirement and who is otherwise eligible shall not be
17	deemed to have left the individual's work voluntarily without
18	good cause in connection with the work. However, if such
19	individual subsequently becomes reemployed and thereafter
20	voluntarily leaves work without good cause in connection with the
20	work, the individual shall be deemed ineligible as outlined in this
21	section.
22	(5) An otherwise eligible individual shall not be denied benefits
23 24	for any week because the individual is in training approved under
24 25	Section 236(a)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, nor shall the
25 26	individual be denied benefits by reason of leaving work to enter
20 27	· · ·
27	such training, provided the work left is not suitable employment,
	or because of the application to any week in training of provisions
29 20	in this law (or any applicable federal unemployment
30	compensation law), relating to availability for work, active search
31	for work, or refusal to accept work. For purposes of this
32	subdivision, the term "suitable employment" means with respect
33	to an individual, work of a substantially equal or higher skill level
34	than the individual's past adversely affected employment (as
35	defined for purposes of the Trade Act of 1974), and wages for
36	such work at not less than eighty percent (80%) of the individual's
37	average weekly wage as determined for the purposes of the Trade
38	Act of 1974.
39	(6) An individual is not subject to disqualification because of
40	separation from the individual's employment if:
41	(A) the employment was outside the individual's labor market;
42	(B) the individual left to accept previously secured full-time

1	work with an employer in the individual's labor market; and
2	(C) the individual actually became employed with the
$\frac{1}{3}$	employer in the individual's labor market.
4	(7) An individual who, but for the voluntary separation to move
5	to another labor market to join a spouse who had moved to that
6	labor market, shall not be disqualified for that voluntary
7	separation, if the individual is otherwise eligible for benefits.
8	Benefits paid to the spouse whose eligibility is established under
9	this subdivision shall not be charged against the employer from
10	whom the spouse voluntarily separated.
11	(8) An individual shall not be subject to disqualification if the
12	individual voluntarily left employment or was discharged due to
13	circumstances directly caused by domestic or family violence (as
14	defined in IC 31-9-2-42). An individual who may be entitled to
15	benefits based on this modification may apply to the office of the
16	attorney general under IC 5-26.5 to have an address designated by
17	the office of the attorney general to serve as the individual's
18	address for purposes of this article.
19	(9) An individual who is an affected employee (as defined in
20	IC 22-4-44-2(1)) and is subject to the work sharing
21	unemployment insurance program under IC 22-4-44 is not
22	disqualified for participating in the work sharing
23	unemployment insurance program.
23 24	unemployment insurance program. As used in this subsection, "labor market" means the area surrounding
23 24 25	unemployment insurance program. As used in this subsection, "labor market" means the area surrounding an individual's permanent residence, outside which the individual
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1	working hours;
2	(7) conduct endangering safety of self or coworkers;
3	(8) incarceration in jail following conviction of a misdemeanor or
4	felony by a court of competent jurisdiction;
5	(9) any breach of duty in connection with work which is
6	reasonably owed an employer by an employee; or
7	(10) testing positive on a drug test under IC 16-27-2.5.
8	(e) To verify that domestic or family violence has occurred, an
9	individual who applies for benefits under subsection (c)(8) shall
10	provide one (1) of the following:
11	(1) A report of a law enforcement agency (as defined in
12	IC 10-13-3-10).
13	(2) A protection order issued under IC 34-26-5.
14	(3) A foreign protection order (as defined in IC 34-6-2-48.5).
15	(4) An affidavit from a domestic violence service provider
16	verifying services provided to the individual by the domestic
17	violence service provider.
18	SECTION 2. IC 22-4-44 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS
19	A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
20	1, 2020]:
21	Chapter 44. Work Sharing Unemployment Insurance Program
22	Sec. 1. This chapter applies after June 30, 2020.
23	Sec. 2. The following definitions apply throughout this chapter:
24	(1) "Affected employee" means an individual who has been
25	continuously on the payroll of an affected unit for at least
26	sixteen (16) months.
27	(2) "Affected unit" means a specific plant, department, shift,
28	or other definable unit of an employing unit:
29	(A) that has at least two (2) employees; and
30	(B) to which an approved work sharing plan applies.
31	(3) "Approved work sharing plan" means a plan that satisfies
32	the purpose set forth in section 3 of this chapter and has the
33	approval of the commissioner.
34	(4) "Intermittent employment" means periodic intervals that
35	are not continuous during which an individual works for an
36	employing unit.
37	(5) "Normal weekly work hours" means the number of hours
38	that a full-time or part-time employee in the affected unit
39	works in a week when the unit is operating on a regular basis.
40	
11	However, the number of hours in a week:
41 42	However, the number of hours in a week: (A) may not exceed forty (40) hours; and (B) does not include hours of overtime work.



1	(6) "Part-time employment" means that an individual works
2	in a position in a week for an employing unit in which the
3	number of scheduled work hours are normally less than the
4	number of scheduled work hours worked by a full-time
5	employee. The term does not include a worker who works in
6	a position that is:
7	(A) seasonal employment (as determined by the
8	department under IC 22-4-7-3(b));
9	(B) temporary employment; or
10	(C) intermittent employment.
11	(7) "Payments in lieu of contributions" has the meaning set
12	forth in IC 22-4-2-32.
13	(8) "Work sharing benefit" means a benefit payable to an
14	affected employee for work performed under an approved
15	work sharing plan, but does not include benefits that are
16	otherwise payable under this article.
17	(9) "Work sharing employer" means an employing unit for
18	which a work sharing plan has been approved.
19	(10) "Work sharing plan" means a plan of an employing unit
20	under which:
21	(A) normal weekly work hours of the affected employees
22	are reduced instead of a layoff of part or all of the affected
23	employees; and
24	(B) the affected employees share the work that remains
25	after the reduction.
26	Sec. 3. The work sharing unemployment insurance program
27	seeks to:
28	(1) preserve the jobs of employees and the workforce of an
29	employer during lowered economic activity by a reduction in
30	work hours or workdays rather than by a layoff of some
31	employees while other employees continue their normal
32	weekly work hours or workdays; and
33	(2) ameliorate the adverse effect of reduction in business
34	activity by providing benefits for the part of the normal
35	weekly work hours or workdays in which an employee does
36	not work.
37	Sec. 4. (a) An employing unit that meets all the following
38	requirements is eligible to participate in the work sharing
39	unemployment insurance program established by this chapter:
40	(1) The employing unit is subject to this article for wages paid
41	during a calendar year.
42	(2) The employing unit's:

1	(A) contribution rate for the calendar year; or
2	(B) payments in lieu of contributions;
3	are determined under IC 22-4-10, IC 22-4-11, IC 22-4-11.5, or
4	IC 22-4-37-3.
5	(3) The employing unit is not delinquent as determined under
6	IC 22-4-11-2.
7	(4) The employing unit had an experience account with a
8	credit balance on the latest computation date.
9	(b) An employing unit that:
10	(1) meets the eligibility requirements under subsection (a);
11	and
12	(2) wishes to participate in the work sharing unemployment
13	insurance program established by this chapter;
14	shall submit a written work sharing plan to the commissioner.
15	Sec. 5. (a) Not later than fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt
16	of a work sharing plan, the commissioner shall give written
17	approval or disapproval of the work sharing plan to the employing
18	unit.
19	(b) The decision of the commissioner to disapprove a work
20	sharing plan is final and may not be appealed.
21	(c) An employing unit may not submit a new work sharing plan
22	less than fifteen (15) calendar days after the date of the
23	commissioner's disapproval of a work sharing plan in accordance
24	with subsection (a).
25	Sec. 6. The commissioner shall approve a work sharing plan
26	that meets the following requirements:
27	(1) The work sharing plan must apply to the greater of:
28	(A) ten percent (10%) of the employees in an affected unit;
29	or
30	(B) two (2) employees in an affected unit.
31	(2) The normal weekly work hours of the affected employees
32	in the affected unit shall be reduced by at least ten percent
33	(10%), but the reduction may not exceed fifty percent (50%).
34	The reduction in normal weekly work hours must be spread
35	equally among all of the affected employees.
36	Sec. 7. (a) A work sharing plan must:
37	(1) identify the affected unit or units to which the work
38	sharing plan applies;
39	(2) state:
40	(A) the reason or reasons resulting in the reduction in
41	normal weekly work hours under section 6(2) of this
42	chapter;



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1	(B) the expected duration of the reduction in normal
2	weekly work hours under section 6(2) of this chapter; and
3	(C) an estimate of the number of layoffs that will be
4	averted by the employing unit's participation in a work
5	sharing plan;
6	(3) specify the effective date of the work sharing plan;
7	(4) specify an expiration date that is not more than twelve (12)
8	months after the effective date of the work sharing plan;
9	(5) identify each employee in the affected unit by:
10	(A) name;
11	(B) Social Security number;
12	(C) the normal weekly work hours of the employee;
13	(D) the reductions in the number of hours and the amount
14	of wages proposed for the employee by the work sharing
15	plan; and
16	(E) any other information the commissioner requires;
17	(6) specify that the work sharing plan will not affect the fringe
18	benefits of any employee in the affected unit, including:
19	(A) health insurance for hospital, medical, dental, and
20	similar services;
21	(B) retirement benefits under benefit pension plans as
22	defined in the federal Employee Retirement Income
23	Security Act (29 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.);
24	(C) holiday and vacation pay;
25	(D) sick leave; and
26	(E) other similar benefits that are incidents of
27	employment;
28	(7) certify that:
29	(A) each affected employee has been continuously on the
30	payroll of the employing unit for at least sixteen (16)
31	months immediately before the date on which the
32	employing unit submits the work sharing plan;
33	(B) the total reduction in normal weekly work hours is in
34	place of layoffs that would have:
35	(i) affected at least the number of employees estimated in
36	subdivision (2)(c); and
37	(ii) resulted in an equivalent reduction in work hours;
38	and
39	(C) the work sharing plan will not serve as a subsidy of:
40	(i) seasonal employment as determined by the
41	department as a seasonal determination under
42	IC 22-4-7-3(b);



1	(ii) temporary employment; or
2	(iii) intermittent employment;
3	(8) contain:
4	(A) the written approval of the collective bargaining agent
5	for each collective bargaining agreement that covers any
6	affected employee in the affected unit; or
7	(B) in the absence of a collective bargaining agreement, a
8	certification by the employing unit that the proposed work
9	sharing plan, or a summary of the work sharing plan, has
10	been made available to each affected employee in the
11	affected unit; and
12	(9) include the employing unit's attestation that participation
13	in a work sharing plan is consistent with the employing unit's
14	obligations under applicable federal and state laws.
15	(b) A work sharing plan may include an option that allows an
16	affected employee to attend work related training or retraining to
17	enhance job skills (including employing unit sponsored training or
18	worker training funded under the federal Workforce Innovation
19	and Opportunity Act of 2014 (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.)) during the
20	affected employee's work hours. The commissioner shall approve
21	the training or retraining offered under this subsection.
22	Sec. 8. A work sharing employer shall agree to:
23	(1) submit reports that are necessary to administer the
24	approved work sharing plan; and
25	(2) allow the department to have access to all records
26	necessary to:
27	(A) verify the work sharing plan before its approval; and
28	(B) monitor and evaluate the application of the approved
29	work sharing plan.
30	Sec. 9. (a) An approved work sharing plan may be modified if:
31	(1) the work sharing employer notifies the commissioner in
32	writing not later than fifteen (15) calendar days after the date
33	the modification is made whenever the modification is not
34	substantial; or
35	(2) whenever the modification is substantial:
36	(A) the modification meets the requirements for approval
37	under section 6 of this chapter; and
38	(B) the commissioner approves the modification.
39	If the commissioner determines that a modification reported under
40	subdivision (1) is substantial, the commissioner shall notify the
41	work sharing employer of the commissioner's determination and
42	require the work sharing employer to request approval of the

1 modification under subdivision (2). 2 (b) The commissioner shall not approve a modification of a 3 work sharing plan that extends the expiration date of the work 4 sharing plan. 5 (c) The decision of the commissioner to disapprove a 6 modification to a work sharing plan is final and may not be 7 appealed. 8 Sec. 10. (a) An affected employee is eligible under this chapter 9 to receive work sharing benefits for each week in which the 10 commissioner determines that the affected employee is: 11 (1) able to work; and 12 (2) available for more hours of work for the work sharing 13 employer. 14 (b) An affected employee who otherwise is eligible may not be 15 denied work sharing benefits for lack of effort to secure full-time 16 work as set forth in IC 22-4-14-3 or for failure to apply for 17 available, suitable work as set forth in IC 22-4-15-2 from a person 18 other than the work sharing employer. 19 (c) An affected employee shall apply for benefits in accordance 20 with IC 22-4-17-1. 21 (d) An affected employee who otherwise is eligible for benefits 22 is: 23 (1) considered to be unemployed for the purpose of the work 24 sharing unemployment insurance program; and 25 (2) not subject to the requirements of IC 22-4-14-2. 26 Sec. 11. The unemployment compensation weekly work sharing 27 benefit due to an affected employee is determined in STEP FIVE 28 of the following formula: 29 STEP ONE: Determine the weekly benefit amount that would 30 be due to the employee under IC 22-4-12-4. 31 STEP TWO: Subtract the number of the employee's work 32 hours under the approved work sharing plan from the 33 number of the employee's normal weekly work hours. 34 STEP THREE: Divide the STEP TWO result by the number 35 of the employee's normal weekly work hours. 36 **STEP FOUR: Multiply the number determined in STEP ONE** by the quotient determined in STEP THREE. 37 38 STEP FIVE: If the product determined under STEP FOUR is 39 not a multiple of one dollar (\$1), round down to the nearest 40 lower multiple of one dollar (\$1). 41 Sec. 12. (a) An affected employee may not receive more than

42 fifty-two (52) weeks of work sharing benefits during each benefit



period.

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(b) The total amount of benefits payable under IC 22-4-12-4 and work sharing benefits payable under this chapter may not exceed the total amount of benefits payable for the benefit period under IC 22-4-12-4(a).

Sec. 13. During a week in which an affected employee who otherwise is eligible for benefits does not work for the work sharing employer:

(1) the individual shall be paid unemployment insurance benefits in accordance with IC 22-4-12; and

(2) the week does not count as a week for which a work sharing benefit is received.

13 Sec. 14. During a week in which an affected employee works for 14 a work sharing employer under an approved work sharing plan 15 and also for another employer, the work sharing benefit is 16 determined under section 11 of this chapter by subtracting (in 17 STEP TWO) the combined hours worked for the work sharing 18 employer and the other employer from the affected employee's 19 normal weekly work hours.

20 Sec. 15. Work sharing benefits shall be charged to the work 21 sharing employer's experience balance in the same manner as 22 unemployment insurance is charged under this article. Employers 23 liable for payments in lieu of contributions shall have work sharing 24 benefits attributed to service in their employ in the same manner 25 as unemployment insurance is attributed under this article. 26 However, during a period in which the federal government 27 reimburses the state for work sharing benefits, the state may not: 28

(1) charge an employer's experience account; or

(2) require payments in lieu of contributions;

for work sharing benefits paid under this article.

Sec. 16. (a) The commissioner may revoke approval of an approved work sharing plan for good cause, including:

(1) conduct or an occurrence that tends to defeat the intent

and effective operation of the approved work sharing plan;

35 (2) failure to comply with an assurance in the approved work

36 sharing plan;

37 (3) unreasonable revision of a productivity standard of the 38 affected unit;

39 (4) violation of a criterion on which the commissioner based 40 the approval of the work sharing plan; or

41 (5) failure of the employing unit to comply with the eligibility 42 requirements under section 4(a) of this chapter for



1	participation in the work sharing unemployment insurance
2	program.
3	(b) A work sharing employer may terminate an approved work
4	sharing plan at any time by notifying the following at least fifteen
5	(15) calendar days before the termination of the plan:
6	(1) The commissioner.
7	(2) One (1) of the following:
8	(A) The collective bargaining agent for each collective
9	bargaining agreement that covers any affected employee
10	in the affected unit.
11	(B) In the absence of a collective bargaining agreement,
12	each affected employee in the affected unit.
13	(c) An affected employee in an affected unit or the collective
14	bargaining agent representing an affected employee in an affected
15	unit may request that the commissioner take action to revoke the
16	approval of an approved work sharing plan.
17	(d) The commissioner shall give written notice of a revocation
18	to the work sharing employer specifying:
19	(1) the date the revocation is effective; and
20	(2) the reason or reasons for the revocation.
21	(e) The commissioner's decision to revoke approval of an
22	approved work sharing plan is final and may not be appealed.
23	(f) The department shall review the operation of an approved
24	work sharing plan at least once during the period that the
25	approved work sharing plan is in effect to ensure that the work
26	sharing employer is complying with the requirements of the
27	approved work sharing plan.
28	Sec. 17. The department may adopt and enforce rules under
29	IC 4-22-2 that are necessary to carry out this chapter in
30	accordance with IC 22-4-19-1.

