

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 44th Legislature (1994)
CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR ENGROSSED
HOUSE BILL NO. 1948

By: Roach of the House

and

Brown of the Senate

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to labor; amending 40 O.S. 1991, Sections 1-210, as last amended by Section 5, Chapter 360, O.S.L. 1993, 1-221, 1-223, 3-110, Section 12, Chapter 318, O.S.L. 1992, as renumbered by Section 36, Chapter 219, O.S.L. 1993, 3-702 and 4-508, as amended by Section 35, Chapter 349, O.S.L. 1993 (40 O.S. Supp. 1993, Sections 1-210, 3-310 and 4-508), which relate to the Employment Security Act of 1980; providing exemption for certain individuals from certain unemployment contribution; providing for exception; providing for certain conditions for such exemption for certain landmen; modifying amount of maximum weekly benefit for determination of benefit wages; modifying determination for the amount of taxable wages; clarifying minimum contribution requirements; authorizing the waiver of certain penalties and interest assessed certain federally recognized Indian tribes and nations under certain conditions; modifying amount paid by state and political subdivisions in lieu of contributions; creating a petty cash fund for the purpose of meal allowances for certain Job Corps students; authorizing the petty cash fund to be maintained in more than one location; providing for the establishment of such fund, and procedures related thereto; requiring maintenance of certain records; limiting amount to be kept in such fund; authorizing the release of certain confidential information to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation and the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control for certain purposes; providing for codification; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 40 O.S. 1991, Section 1-210, as last amended by Section 5, Chapter 360, O.S.L. 1993 (40 O.S. Supp. 1993, Section 1-210), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1-210. EMPLOYMENT. "Employment" means:

(1) Any service performed prior to January 1, 1972, which was employment as defined in this section, prior to such date, and subject to the other provisions of this section, service performed after December 31, 1971, including service in interstate commerce by:

- (a) any officer of a corporation;
- (b) any individual who, under the usual common-law rules applicable in determining the employer-employee relationship, has the status of an employee; or
- (c) any individual other than an individual who is an employee under subparagraphs (a) or (b) of this paragraph who performs services for remuneration for any person:

- (i) as an agent-driver or commission-driver engaged in distributing meat products, vegetable products, fruit products, bakery products, beverages other than milk, or laundry or dry cleaning services, for his principal;
- (ii) as a traveling or city salesman, other than as an agent-driver or commission-driver, engaged upon a full-time basis in the solicitation on behalf of, and the transmission to, his principal, except for sideline sales activities on behalf of some other person, of orders from wholesalers, retailers, contractors, or operators of hotels, restaurants or other similar establishments for merchandise for resale or supplies for use in their business operations;

- (d) provided, that for purposes of subparagraph (c) of this paragraph, the term "employment" shall include services described in divisions (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (c) above performed after December 31, 1971, if:

- (i) the contract of service contemplates that substantially all of the services are to be performed personally by such individual;
- (ii) the individual does not have a substantial investment in facilities used in connection with the performance of the services, other than in facilities for transportation; and
- (iii) the services are not in the nature of a single transaction that is not part of a continuing relationship with the person for whom the services are performed.

(2) Service performed after December 31, 1971, and prior to January 1, 1978, by an individual in the employ of this state or any of its instrumentalities, or in the employ of this state and one or more other states or their instrumentalities, for a hospital or institution of higher education, located in this state, including seasonal or temporary employment.

- (3) (a) Service performed after December 31, 1971, and prior to January 1, 1978, in the employ of this state, other than services defined in paragraph (2) of this section; that is, each officer or employee in the service of the State of Oklahoma who, after December 31, 1971, and prior to January 1, 1978, receives his compensation for service rendered to the State of Oklahoma on a warrant or check issued pursuant to a payroll certified by a department or by an elected or duly appointed officer of this state or who receives payment for the performance of personal services on a warrant issued pursuant to a payroll certified by a department and drawn by the State Treasurer against appropriations made by the Legislature from any state fund or against trust funds held by the State Treasurer, excluding any person chosen by election or appointment to fill an elective office, excluding seasonal or temporary

employment, and excluding any services performed by an inmate of a state penal institution.

- (b) Service performed after December 31, 1977, in the employ of this state or any of its instrumentalities or any political subdivision thereof or any of its instrumentalities or any instrumentality of more than one of the foregoing or any instrumentality of any of the foregoing and one or more other states or political subdivisions; provided, that such service is excluded from "employment" as defined in the Federal Unemployment Tax Act, 26 U.S.C., Section 3306(c)(7), and is not excluded from "employment" under paragraph (7) of this section.

(4) Service performed after December 31, 1971, by an individual in the employ of a community chest, fund, foundation or corporation, organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, testing for public safety, literary or educational purposes, or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals, no part of the net earnings of which inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual, no substantial part of the activities of which is carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation and which does not participate in, or intervene in, including the publishing or distributing of statements, any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office; provided that such organization had four or more individuals in employment for some portion of a day in each of twenty (20) different weeks, whether or not such weeks were consecutive, within either the current or preceding calendar year, regardless of whether they were employed at the same moment of time.

(5) Service performed after December 31, 1977, by an individual in agricultural labor as defined in division (ii) of subparagraph (a) of paragraph (15) of this section when:

- (a) such service is performed for a person who:
- (i) during any calendar quarter in either the current or the preceding calendar year paid

remuneration in cash of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) or more to individuals employed in agricultural labor; or

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

(b) for the purposes of this paragraph any individual who is a member of a crew furnished by a crew leader to perform service in agricultural labor for any other person shall be treated as an employee of such crew leader:

(i) if such crew leader holds a valid certificate of registration under the Farm Labor Contractor Registration Act of 1963, Public Law 95-562, 29 U.S.C., Sections 1801 through 1872; or substantially all the members of such crew operate or maintain tractors, mechanized harvesting or crop-dusting equipment, or any other mechanized equipment, which is provided by such crew leader; and

(ii) if such individual is not an employee of such other person within the meaning of paragraph (1) of this section or subparagraph (d) of this paragraph.

(c) for the purposes of this paragraph, in the case of any individual who is furnished by a crew leader to perform service in agricultural labor for any other person and who is not treated as an employee of such crew leader under subparagraph (b) of this paragraph:

- (i) such other person and not the crew leader shall be treated as the employer of such individual; and
 - (ii) such other person shall be treated as having paid cash remuneration to such individual in an amount equal to the amount of cash remuneration paid to such individual by the crew leader, either on his own behalf or on behalf of such other person, for the service in agricultural labor performed for such other person.
- (d) for the purposes of this paragraph, the term "crew leader" means an individual who:
- (i) furnishes individuals to perform service in agricultural labor for any other person;
 - (ii) pays, either on his own behalf or on behalf of such other person, the individuals so furnished by him for the service in agricultural labor performed by them; and
 - (iii) has not entered into a written agreement with such other person (farm operator) under which such individual is designated as an employee of such other person.

(6) The term "employment" shall include domestic service after December 31, 1977, in a private home, local college club or local chapter of a college fraternity or sorority performed for a person who paid cash remuneration of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) or more after December 31, 1977, in the current calendar year or the preceding calendar year to individuals employed in such domestic service in any calendar quarter.

(7) For the purposes of paragraphs (2), (3) and (4) of this section the term "employment" does not apply to service performed:

- (a) in the employ of:
 - (i) a church or convention or association of churches; or
 - (ii) an organization which is operated primarily for religious purposes and which is operated,

supervised, controlled, or principally supported by a church or convention or association of churches;

- (b) by a duly ordained, commissioned or licensed minister of a church in the exercise of his ministry or by a member of a religious order in the exercise of duties required by such order;
- (c) prior to January 1, 1978, in the employ of a school which is not an institution of higher education; after December 31, 1977, in the employ of a governmental entity referred to in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this section if such service is performed by an individual in the exercise of duties:
 - (i) as an elected official;
 - (ii) as a member of a legislative body, or a member of the judiciary of a state or political subdivision;
 - (iii) as a member of the State National Guard or Air National Guard;
 - (iv) as an employee serving on a temporary basis in case of fire, storm, snow, earthquake, flood or similar emergency;
 - (v) in a position which, under or pursuant to the laws of this state, is designated as a major nontenured policymaking or advisory position, or a policymaking or advisory position the performance of the duties of which ordinarily does not require more than eight (8) hours per week;
- (d) in a facility conducted for the purpose of carrying out a program of rehabilitation for individuals whose earning capacity is impaired by age or physical or mental deficiency or injury or providing remunerative work for individuals who, because of their impaired physical or mental capacity, cannot be readily absorbed in the competitive labor market

by an individual receiving such rehabilitation or remunerative work;

- (e) as part of an unemployment work-relief or work-training program assisted or financed in whole or in part by any federal agency or an agency of a state or political subdivision thereof, by an individual receiving such work-relief or work-training; or
- (f) prior to January 1, 1978, for a hospital in a state prison or other state correctional institution by an inmate of the prison or correctional institution and after December 31, 1977, by an inmate of a custodial or penal institution.

(8) The term "employment" shall include the service of an individual who is a citizen of the United States, performed outside the United States, except in Canada, after December 31, 1971, in the employ of an American employer other than service which is deemed "employment" under the provisions of paragraphs (11) or (12) of this section or the parallel provisions of another state's law, if:

- (a) the employer's principal place of business in the United States is located in this state;
- (b) the employer has no place of business in the United States, but:
 - (i) the employer is an individual who is a resident of this state;
 - (ii) the employer is a corporation which is organized under the laws of this state; or
 - (iii) the employer is a partnership or a trust and the number of the partners or trustees who are residents of this state is greater than the number who are residents of any one other state;
- (c) none of the criteria of subparagraphs (a) and (b) of this paragraph are met but the employer has elected coverage in this state or, the employer having failed to elect coverage in any state, the

individual has filed a claim for benefits, based on such service, under the law of this state;

- (d) an "American employer", for purposes of this subsection, means a person who is:
- (i) an individual who is a resident of the United States;
 - (ii) a partnership if two-thirds or more of the partners are residents of the United States;
 - (iii) a trust, if all of the trustees are residents of the United States; or
 - (iv) a corporation organized under the laws of the United States or of any state; and
- (e) the term "United States", for the purposes of this subsection, includes the states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

(9) Notwithstanding paragraph (11) of this section, all service performed after December 31, 1971, by an officer or member of the crew of an American vessel on or in connection with such vessel, if the operating office, from which the operations of such vessel operating on navigable waters within, or within and without, the United States are ordinarily and regularly supervised, managed, directed and controlled is within this state.

(10) Notwithstanding any other provisions of the Employment Security Act of 1980, Section 1-101 et seq. of this title, "employment":

- (a) includes any service with respect to which a tax is required to be paid under any federal law imposing a tax against which credit may be taken for contributions required to be paid into a state unemployment fund; and
- (b) includes any service which is required to be "employment" for full tax credit to be allowed against the tax imposed by the Federal Unemployment Tax Act of 1954, Public Law 591, Chapter 736, as amended, 26 U.S.C., Section 3301 et seq.

(11) The term "employment" shall include an individual's entire service, performed within or both within and without this state if:

- (a) the service is localized in this state; or
- (b) the service is not localized in any state but some of the service is performed in this state and:
 - (i) the individual's base of operations, or, if there is no base of operations, then the place from which the individual's employment is directed or controlled is in this state; or
 - (ii) the individual's base of operations or place from which such service is directed or controlled is not in any state in which some part of the service is performed but the individual's residence is in this state.

- (12) (a) Services covered by an election pursuant to Section 3-203 of this title~~7~~1 and
- (b) services covered by an arrangement pursuant to Section 4-701 et seq. of this title between the Commission and the agency charged with the administration of any other state or federal unemployment compensation law, pursuant to which all services performed by an individual for an employing unit are deemed to be performed entirely within this state, shall be deemed to be employment if the Commission has approved an election of the employing unit for whom such services are performed, pursuant to which the entire service of such individual during the period covered by such election is deemed to be insured work.

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

- (a) the service is performed entirely within such state; or
- (b) the service is performed both within and without such state, but the service performed without such

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

(14) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection, services performed by an individual for wages or under any contract of hire shall be deemed to be employment subject to this act unless and until it is shown to the satisfaction of the Commission that:

- (a) such individual has been and will continue to be free from control or direction over the performance of such services, both under his contract of hire and in fact; and
- (b) such individual is customarily engaged in an independently established trade, occupation, profession, or business; or
- (c) such service is outside the usual course of the business for which such service is performed and that such service is performed outside of all the places of business of the enterprise for which such service is performed.

(15) The term "employment" shall not include:

- (a) (i) services performed prior to January 1, 1978, in the employ of the owner or tenant operating a farm, in connection with the cultivation of the soil, the harvesting of crops, or the raising, feeding, or management of livestock, poultry, bees, furbearing animals and wildlife, nurseries, or greenhouses or in connection with the processing, packing or marketing of produce of such farms, nurseries or greenhouses and as an incident to such operations, as provided in this division.
- (ii) services performed after December 31, 1977, by an individual in agricultural labor, except as provided under paragraph (5) of this section.

For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "agricultural labor" means remunerated service performed in agricultural labor as defined in the Federal Unemployment Tax Act, 26 U.S.C. 3306(k)-~~i~~;

- (b) domestic service, except as provided under paragraph (6) of this section, in a private home, local college club, or local chapter of a college fraternity or sorority;
- (c) service performed by an individual in the employ of his son, daughter, or spouse, and service performed by a child under the age of twenty-one (21) in the employ of his father or mother, or both father and mother;
- (d) service performed in the employ of the United States government or an instrumentality of the United States exempt under the Constitution of the United States from the contributions imposed by the Employment Security Act of 1980, except that to the extent that the Congress of the United States shall permit states to require any instrumentalities of the United States to make payments into an unemployment fund under a state unemployment compensation law, all of the provisions of the Employment Security Act of 1980 shall be applicable to such instrumentalities, and to services performed for such instrumentalities, in the same manner, to the same extent, and on the same terms as to all other employers, employing units, individuals and services; provided that if this state shall not be certified for any year by the Secretary of Labor of the United States under Section 3304(c) of the Federal Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C., Section 3304(c), the payments required of such instrumentalities with respect to such year shall be refunded by the Commission from the fund in the same

manner and within the same period as is provided in Section 3-304 of this title with respect to contributions erroneously collected;

- (e) prior to January 1, 1978, service performed in the employ of this state or of any other state, or of any political subdivision thereof, or any instrumentality of any one or more of the foregoing which is wholly owned by this state or by one or more states or political subdivisions; and any service performed in the employ of any instrumentality of this state or of one or more states or political subdivisions to the extent that the instrumentality is, with respect to such service, exempt under the Constitution of the United States from the tax imposed by Section 3301 of the Federal Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 3301, except as otherwise provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this section;
- (f) service with respect to which unemployment compensation is payable under an unemployment compensation system established by an act of Congress;
- (g) service performed in the employ of a foreign government, including service as a consul or other officer or employee or a nondiplomatic representative;
- (h) service performed in the employ of an instrumentality wholly owned by a foreign government:
 - (i) if the service is of a character similar to that performed in foreign countries by employees of the United States government or of an instrumentality thereof; and
 - (ii) if the Commission finds that the United States Secretary of State has certified to the United States Secretary of the Treasury that the

foreign government, with respect to whose instrumentality exemption is claimed, grants an equivalent exemption with respect to similar service performed in the foreign country by employees of the United States government and of instrumentalities thereof;

- (i) service covered by an arrangement between the Commission and the agency charged with the administration of any other state or federal unemployment compensation law pursuant to which all services performed by an individual for an employing unit during the period covered by such employing unit's duly approved election, are deemed to be performed entirely within the jurisdiction of such other state or federal agency;
- (j) service performed as a student nurse in the employ of a hospital or a nurses' training school by an individual who is enrolled and is regularly attending classes in a nurses' training school chartered or approved pursuant to state law; and service performed as an intern in the employ of a hospital by an individual who has completed a four-year course in a medical school chartered or approved pursuant to state law;
- (k) service performed by an individual for a person, firm, association, trust, partnership or corporation as an insurance agent, or as an insurance solicitor or as a licensed real estate agent, if all such service performed by such individual for such person is performed for remuneration solely by way of commissions or fees;
- (l) service performed by an individual under the age of eighteen (18) in the delivery and distribution of newspapers or shopping news, not including delivery or distribution to any point for subsequent delivery or distribution;

- (m) service performed in the employ of a school, college or university, if such service is performed:
 - (i) by a student who is enrolled and is regularly attending classes at such school, college, or university; or
 - (ii) by the spouse of such a student, if such spouse is advised, at the time such spouse commences to perform such service, that:
 - (I) the employment of such spouse to perform such service is provided under a program to provide financial assistance to such student by such school, college, or university; and
 - (II) such employment will not be covered by any program of unemployment insurance;
- (n) service performed by an individual who is enrolled at a nonprofit or public educational institution which normally maintains a regular faculty and curriculum and normally has a regularly organized body of students in attendance at the place where its educational activities are carried on as a student in a full-time program, taken for credit at such institution, which combines academic instruction with work experience, if such service is an integral part of such program, and such institution has so certified to the employer, except that this provision shall not apply to service performed in a program established for or on behalf of an employer or group of employers;
- (o) service performed in the employ of a hospital, if such service is performed by a patient of such hospital;
- (p) services performed by cooperative extension personnel holding federal appointments employed by state institutions of higher learning;

- (q) earnings of employees being paid by state warrants who are presently covered by the Federal Unemployment Compensation Act, 5 U.S.C., Section 8501 et seq., by virtue of their federal status;
- (r) cosmetology services performed by an individual in a beauty shop, as defined by Section 199.1 of Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes, pursuant to an agreement whereby the owner of the beauty shop leases or rents facilities for cosmetology to such individual;
- (s) barbering services performed by an individual in a barber shop, as defined by Section 70 of Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes, pursuant to an agreement whereby the owner of the barber shop leases or rents facilities for barbering to such individual;
- (t) in-home services performed in a medical care program such as the nontechnical medical care program, or social services program, as certified and approved by the Department of Human Services or the Federal Health Care Financing Administration or as a participant in a work or training program administered by the Department of Human Services;
- (u) riding services performed by a jockey and services performed by a trainer of race horses in an approved race licensed by the Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission;
- (v) service performed by an individual whose remuneration consists solely of commissions, overrides, bonuses, and differentials related to sales or other output derived from in-person sales to, or solicitation of orders from, ultimate consumers primarily in the home, or otherwise than in a permanent retail establishment;
- (w) service performed by a person, commonly referred to as "owner-operator", who owns or leases a truck-tractor or truck for hire, provided said owner-operator actually operates the truck-tractor

or truck and, further, that the entity contracting with the owner-operator is not the lessor of the truck-tractor or truck;

~~✱~~ (x) services performed as a chopper of cotton who weeds or thins cotton crops by hand or hoe. This subsection shall be interpreted and applied consistently with the Federal Unemployment Tax Act, 26 U.S.C., Sections 3304(a)(6)(A) and 3306(k);

(y) services performed for a corporation by an individual who owns one hundred percent (100%) of the stock of such corporation, provided that such corporation is not a nonprofit corporation as provided for in the Employment Security Act of 1980;
or

(z) services performed for a private for-profit person or entity by an individual as a landman:

(i) if the individual is engaged primarily in negotiating for the acquisition or divestiture of mineral rights or negotiating business agreements that provide for the exploration for or development of minerals,

(ii) if substantially all remuneration paid in cash or otherwise for the performance of the services is directly related to the completion by the individual of the specific tasks contracted for rather than to the number of hours worked by the individual, and

(iii) if the services performed by the individual are performed under a written contract between the individual and the person for whom the services are performed; provided that the individual is to be treated as an independent contractor and not as an employee with respect to the services provided under the contract.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 40 O.S. 1991, Section 1-221, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1-221. BENEFIT WAGES. "Benefit wages" means the wages earned by a claimant during his base period which are not in excess of the current maximum weekly benefit amount ~~(One Hundred Thirty-two Dollars (\$132.00) until July 1, 1980)~~, as determined under Section 2-104 of this title, multiplied by the maximum number of weeks for which benefits could be paid to any individual (now twenty-six (26) weeks) multiplied by three (3); provided, however, no wages shall be included as "benefit wages" unless and until the claimant has been paid benefits for two (2) weeks in one (1) benefit year.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 40 O.S. 1991, Section 1-223, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1-223. TAXABLE WAGES. "Taxable wages" means the ~~first Seven Thousand Dollars (\$7,000.00)~~ wages paid to an individual ~~by an employing unit~~ with respect to employment during a calendar year for services covered by the Employment Security Act of 1980 or other state unemployment compensation acts. ~~Beginning January 1, 1986, the taxable wage shall be equal to~~ which shall equal fifty percent (50%) of the state's average annual wage for the second preceding calendar year as determined by the Commission, rounded to the nearest multiple of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00).

SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 40 O.S. 1991, Section 3-110, is amended to read as follows:

Section 3-110. MINIMUM CONTRIBUTIONS. No employer's rate shall be less than three and one-tenth percent (3.1%) for any year unless throughout the one (1) calendar year immediately preceding such year some ~~individual~~ eligible individuals could, ~~if unemployed and eligible, have received benefits based upon wages from such employer~~ have filed a claim in each calendar quarter of said year establishing a base period as prescribed by Section 1-202 of this title which would include wages from that employer.

SECTION 5. AMENDATORY Section 12, Chapter 318, O.S.L. 1992, as renumbered by Section 36, Chapter 219, O.S.L. 1993 (40 O.S. Supp. 1993, Section 3-310), is amended to read as follows:

Section 3-310. A. Any penalty or interest, or any portion thereof, assessed because an employer or employee fails to file a report or remit payment as required by Section 1-101 et seq. of Title 40 of the Oklahoma Statutes may be waived by the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission provided the failure of the employer or employee to file a report or remit payment:

1. Is satisfactorily explained to the Commission;
2. Has resulted from a mistake by the employer or employee of either the law or the facts subjecting the employer or employee to file the report or remit payment; or
3. Results from insolvency.

B. Provided, no waiver of penalty or interest assessed for failure to file a report or remit payment as required by this act shall be granted unless the request for waiver is filed with the Commission within a three-year period from the date the penalty or interest was assessed or accrued.

C. Any penalty and interest assessed prior to April 1, 1995, against an employer which is a federally recognized Indian tribe or nation, shall be waived by the Commission upon full payment of all outstanding contributions owed by any such Indian tribe or nation pursuant to the Employment Security Act of 1980, provided that full payment is received by the Commission prior to April 1, 1995. Any such Indian tribe or nation who has fully complied with the provisions of this subsection shall be eligible to elect coverage and thereafter be subject to termination of any such election of such coverage pursuant to Section 3-203 of this title.

SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 40 O.S. 1991, Section 3-702, is amended to read as follows:

Section 3-702. PAYMENTS BY THE STATE SUBDIVISIONS AND INSTRUMENTALITIES IN LIEU OF CONTRIBUTIONS. In lieu of contributions required of employers under the ~~Oklahoma~~ Employment Security Act of 1980, as provided by this act, the State of Oklahoma and its instrumentalities shall pay each quarter

beginning after March 31, 1978, including any political subdivision and its instrumentalities after December 31, 1977, one percent (1%) of taxable wages, as defined in this act, paid to employees covered by this act. Such payments made in lieu of contributions shall be paid on or before the last day of the month following the calendar quarter to be reported and shall be paid into the Unemployment Compensation Fund.

SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 4-315 of Title 40, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

PETTY CASH FUND FOR JOB CORPS. There is hereby authorized to be created a petty cash fund for the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission in an amount not to exceed Seven Hundred Dollars (\$700.00) to be utilized solely for providing meal allowances to Job Corps students under the guidelines provided by the United States Department of Labor. Such fund may be maintained in one or more locations as deemed necessary by the Commission. Said fund shall be established from Job Corps funds available to the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission and shall be administered under such procedures as prescribed by the Director of State Finance. The Oklahoma Employment Security Commission shall maintain appropriate, auditable records for these disbursements.

SECTION 8. AMENDATORY 40 O.S. 1991, Section 4-508, as amended by Section 35, Chapter 349, O.S.L. 1993 (40 O.S. Supp. 1993, Section 4-508), is amended to read as follows:

Section 4-508. INFORMATION TO BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL - DISCLOSURE. A. Except as otherwise provided by law, information obtained from any employing unit or individual pursuant to the administration of the Employment Security Act of 1980, and determinations as to the benefit rights of any individual shall be held confidential and shall not be disclosed or be open to public inspection in any manner revealing the individual's or employing unit's identity. Any claimant or employer or such person as he may by writing authorize as his agent shall be supplied with information from the records of the Commission, to the extent necessary for the proper presentation of his claim or complaint in

any proceeding under the Employment Security Act of 1980, Section 1-101 et seq. of this title, with respect thereto.

B. Upon receipt of written request by any employer who maintains a Supplemental Unemployment Benefit (SUB) Plan, the Commission or its designated representative may release to such employer information regarding weekly benefit amounts paid its workers during a specified temporary layoff period, provided such Supplemental Unemployment Benefit (SUB) Plan requires benefit payment information before Supplemental Unemployment Benefits can be paid to such workers. Any information disclosed under this provision shall be utilized solely for the purpose outlined herein and shall be held strictly confidential by the employer.

C. The provisions of this section shall not prevent the Commission from disclosing the following information and no liability whatsoever, civil or criminal, shall attach to any member of the Commission or any employee thereof for any error or omission in the disclosure of such information:

1. The delivery to taxpayer or claimant a copy of any report or other paper filed by him pursuant to the provision of the act;

2. The disclosure of information to any person for a purpose as authorized by the taxpayer or claimant pursuant to a waiver of confidentiality. The waiver shall be in writing and shall be notarized;

3. The Oklahoma Department of Commerce may have access to data obtained pursuant to the Oklahoma Employment Security Act of 1980 pursuant to rules promulgated by the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission. The information obtained shall be held confidential by the Department and any of its agents and shall not be disclosed or be open to public inspection. The Oklahoma Department of Commerce, however, may release aggregated data, either by industry or county, provided that such aggregation meets disclosure requirements of the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission-i

4. The publication of statistics so classified as to prevent the identification of a particular report and the items thereof;

5. The disclosing of information or evidence to the Attorney General or any district attorney when said information or evidence is to be used by said officials or other parties to the proceedings to prosecute or defend allegations of violations of the act. Said information disclosed to the Attorney General or any district attorney shall be kept confidential by them and not be disclosed except when presented to a court in a prosecution of a violation of the act, and a violation by the Attorney General or district attorney by otherwise releasing the information shall be a felony;

6. The furnishing, at the discretion of the Commission, of any information disclosed by said records or files to any official person or body of this state, any other state or of the United States who is concerned with the administration of assessment of any similar tax in this state, any other state or the United States;

7. The furnishing of information to other state agencies for the limited purpose of aiding in the collection of debts owed by individuals to said requesting agencies;

8. The release to officials, employees, and agents of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation of information required for use in federally mandated regional transportation planning, which is performed as a part of their official duties;

9. The release to officials, employees and agents of the State Treasurer's office of information required to verify or evaluate the effectiveness of the Oklahoma Small Business Linked Deposit Program on job creation; ~~or~~

10. The release to officials, employees, and agents of the Attorney General or the State Insurance Fund for use in investigation of workers' compensation fraud; or

11. The release to employees of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation or release to employees of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control for use in criminal investigations and the location of missing persons or fugitives from justice.

D. Should any of the disclosures provided for in this section require more than casual or incidental staff time, the Commission may charge the cost of such staff time to the party requesting the information.

E. It is further provided that the provisions of this section shall be strictly interpreted and shall not be construed as permitting the disclosure of any other information contained in the records and files of the Commission.

SECTION 9. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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