

CHAPTER 128—S.F.No. 167

An act relating to unemployment insurance; making various policy, housekeeping, and style changes to the Minnesota Unemployment Insurance Law; incorporating certain administrative rules into Minnesota Statutes; modifying fraud penalties; providing extra benefits for certain workers laid off from Ainsworth Lumber Company; providing a waiver from certain filing requirements for certain Northwest Airlines workers; amending Minnesota Statutes 2006, sections 268.001; 268.03, subdivisions 1, 2; 268.035, subdivisions 1, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 20, 21a, 23, 23a, 24, 26, 29, 30, by adding a subdivision; 268.042, subdivisions 1, 3, 4; 268.043; 268.0435; 268.044, subdivisions 1, 1a, 2, 3, 4; 268.045, subdivision 1; 268.046; 268.047, subdivisions 1, 2, 3, 5; 268.051, subdivisions 1, 1a, 2, 3, 4, 4a, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9; 268.052, subdivisions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; 268.0525; 268.053, subdivisions 1, 2, 3; 268.057, subdivisions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10; 268.058; 268.059; 268.0625, subdivisions 4, 5; 268.063; 268.064; 268.065, subdivisions 1, 3; 268.066; 268.067; 268.0675; 268.068; 268.069, subdivisions 1, 2, 3; 268.07, subdivisions 1, 2, 3a, 3b; 268.084; 268.085, subdivisions 1, 2, 3, 3a, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 13a, 13b, 13c, 16; 268.086, subdivisions 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9; 268.087; 268.095, subdivisions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 6a, 7, 10, 11; 268.101; 268.103, subdivisions 1, 2; 268.105, subdivisions 1, 2, 3, 3a, 4, 5, 6, 7; 268.115; 268.125, subdivisions 3, 4, 5; 268.131, subdivision 1; 268.135; 268.145, subdivisions 1, 2, 3; 268.155; 268.18, subdivisions 1, 2, 2b, 4, 5, 6; 268.182, subdivisions 1, 2; 268.184, subdivisions 1, 1a; 268.186; 268.188; 268.19, subdivisions 1, 1a, 2; 268.192; 268.194, subdivisions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6; 268.196, subdivisions 1, 3; 268.20; 268.21; 268.22; 268.23; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 268; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2006, sections 268.0435; 268.0511; 268.085, subdivision 10; 268.103, subdivision 4; Minnesota Rules, parts 3315.0210; 3315.0220; 3315.0515; 3315.0520; 3315.0525; 3315.0530, subparts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6; 3315.0540; 3315.0550; 3315.0910, subparts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8; 3315.1005, subparts 1, 3; 3315.1315, subpart 4; 3315.2010; 3315.2810, subparts 2, 4.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

ARTICLE 1

POLICY CHANGES

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.035, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **Base period.** "Base period" means:

(1) the first four of the last five completed calendar quarters ~~prior to~~ before the effective date of an applicant's ~~benefit account~~ application for unemployment benefits as set forth below:

If the ~~benefit account~~ application for unemployment benefits is effective on or between these dates:

January 1 - March 31

April 1 - June 30

July 1 - September 30

October 1 - December 31

The base period is the prior:

October 1 - September 30

January 1 - December 31

April 1 - March 31

July 1 - June 30

(2) if the applicant has insufficient wage credits to establish a benefit account under clauses (1) and (3), and during the base period under clause (1) an applicant received workers' compensation for temporary disability under chapter 176 or a similar federal law or similar law of another state, or if an applicant whose own serious illness caused a loss of work for which the applicant received compensation for loss of wages from some other source, the applicant may request ~~an~~ extended base period as follows:

(i) if an applicant was compensated for a loss of work of seven to 13 weeks, the base period ~~shall be~~ is the first four of the last six completed calendar quarters ~~prior to~~ before the effective date of the ~~benefit account~~ application for unemployment benefits;

(ii) if an applicant was compensated for a loss of work of 14 to 26 weeks, the base period ~~shall be~~ is the first four of the last seven completed calendar quarters ~~prior to~~ before the effective date of the ~~benefit account~~ application for unemployment benefits;

(iii) if an applicant was compensated for a loss of work of 27 to 39 weeks, the base period ~~shall be~~ is the first four of the last eight completed calendar quarters ~~prior to~~ before the effective date of the ~~benefit account~~ application for unemployment benefits; and

(iv) if an applicant was compensated for a loss of work of 40 to 52 weeks, the base period ~~shall be~~ is the first four of the last nine completed calendar quarters ~~prior to~~ before the effective date of the ~~benefit account~~ application for unemployment benefits;

(3) if the applicant ~~qualifies for a base period under clause (2), but~~ has insufficient wage credits to establish a benefit account, ~~the applicant may request a~~ under clause (1), an alternate base period of the last four completed calendar quarters ~~prior to~~ before the date the applicant's ~~benefit account~~ application for unemployment benefits is effective will be used. This base period ~~may~~ can be used only ~~once during any five-calendar-year period~~ 30 calendar days or more after the end of the last completed quarter, when a wage detail report has been, or should have been, filed for that quarter under section 268.044; and

(4) no base period under clause (1), (2), or (3) ~~shall~~ may include wage credits upon which a prior benefit account was established.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section applies to applications for unemployment benefits filed effective on or after September 30, 2007.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.035, subdivision 17, is amended to read:

Subd. 17. **Filing; filed.** "Filing" or "filed" means the delivery of any document to the commissioner or any of the commissioner's agents, or the depositing of the document in the United States mail properly addressed to the department with postage prepaid,

in which case the document ~~shall be~~ is considered filed on the day indicated by the cancellation mark of the United States Postal Service.

If, where allowed, an application, ~~protest~~, appeal, or other required action is made by electronic transmission, it ~~shall be~~ is considered filed on the day received by the department.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective September 30, 2007.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.043, is amended to read:

268.043 DETERMINATIONS OF COVERAGE.

(a) The commissioner, upon the commissioner's own motion or upon application of a person, shall determine if that ~~organization or~~ person is an employer or whether services performed for it constitute employment and covered employment, or whether the compensation for services constitutes wages, and ~~shall~~ notify the person of the determination. The determination ~~shall be~~ is final unless the ~~organization or~~ person, within ~~30~~ 20 calendar days after sending of the determination by mail or electronic transmission, files a protest. ~~Upon receipt of a protest, the commissioner shall review all available evidence and determine whether an error has been made. The commissioner shall send to the person, by mail or electronic transmission, an affirmation or redetermination. The affirmation or redetermination shall be final unless, within 30 calendar days after sending of the affirmation or redetermination to the person by mail or electronic transmission, an appeal is filed. Proceedings on the appeal shall be~~ are conducted in accordance with section 268.105.

(b) No person ~~shall~~ may be initially determined an employer, or that services performed for it were in employment or covered employment, for periods more than four years ~~prior to~~ before the year in which the determination is made, unless the commissioner finds that there was fraudulent action to avoid liability under this chapter.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section applies to determinations issued on or after September 30, 2007.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.047, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Exceptions for all employers.** Unemployment benefits paid ~~shall~~ will not be used in computing the future tax rate of a taxpaying base period employer or charged to the reimbursable account of a base period nonprofit or government employer that has elected to be liable for reimbursements when:

(1) the applicant was discharged from the employment because of aggravated employment misconduct as determined under section 268.095. This exception ~~shall apply~~ applies only to unemployment benefits paid for periods after the applicant's discharge from employment;

(2) an applicant's discharge from that employment occurred because a law required removal of the applicant from the position the applicant held;

(3) the employer is in the tourist or recreation industry and is in active operation of business less than 15 calendar weeks each year and the applicant's wage credits from the employer are less than 600 times the applicable state or federal minimum wage;

~~(4)~~ (4) the employer provided regularly scheduled part-time employment to the applicant during the applicant's base period and continues to provide the applicant with regularly scheduled part-time employment during the benefit year of at least 90 percent of the part-time employment provided in the base period, and is an involved employer because of the applicant's loss of other employment. This exception ~~shall terminate~~ terminates effective the first week that the employer fails to meet the benefit year employment requirements. This exception ~~shall apply~~ applies to educational institutions without consideration of the period between academic years or terms;

~~(4)~~ (5) the employer is a fire department or firefighting corporation or operator of a life-support transportation service, and continues to provide employment for the applicant as a volunteer firefighter or a volunteer ambulance service personnel during the benefit year on the same basis that employment was provided in the base period. This exception ~~shall terminate~~ terminates effective the first week that the employer fails to meet the benefit year employment requirements;

~~(5)~~ (6) the applicant's unemployment from this employer was a direct result of the condemnation of property by a governmental agency, a fire, flood, or act of nature, where 25 percent or more of the employees employed at the affected location, including the applicant, became unemployed as a result. This exception ~~shall~~ does not apply where the unemployment was a direct result of the intentional act of the employer or a person acting on behalf of the employer;

~~(6)~~ (7) the unemployment benefits were paid by another state as a result of the transferring of wage credits under a combined wage arrangement provided for in section 268.131;

~~(7)~~ (8) the applicant stopped working because of a labor dispute at the applicant's primary place of employment if the employer was not a party to the labor dispute;

~~(8)~~ (9) the unemployment benefits were determined overpaid unemployment benefits under section 268.18; or

~~(9)~~ (10) the trust fund was reimbursed for the unemployment benefits by the federal government.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section applies to benefits paid on benefit accounts filed effective on or after September 30, 2007.

Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.047, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

Subd. 5. **Notice of unemployment benefits paid.** (a) The commissioner shall notify each employer at least quarterly by mail or electronic transmission of the unemployment benefits paid each applicant that will be used in computing the future tax rate of a taxpaying employer, or that have been charged to the reimbursable account of a nonprofit or government employer that has elected to be liable for reimbursements.

(b) A notice under this subdivision ~~shall is~~ is not ~~be~~ subject to ~~protest or~~ appeal. The commissioner may at any time upon the commissioner's own motion correct any error that resulted in an incorrect notice under paragraph (a) and issue a corrected notice.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective September 30, 2007.

Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.051, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Payments.** (a) Unemployment insurance taxes and any additional assessments, fees, or surcharges ~~shall~~ accrue and become payable by each employer for each calendar year on the taxable wages that the employer paid to employees in covered employment, except for:

(1) nonprofit organizations that elect to make reimbursements as provided in section 268.053; and

(2) the state of Minnesota and political subdivisions that make reimbursements, unless they elect to pay taxes as provided in section 268.052.

~~Except as allowed under section 268.0511,~~ Each employer ~~shall~~ must pay taxes quarterly, at the employer's assigned tax rate under subdivision 6, on the taxable wages paid to each employee. The commissioner shall compute the tax due from the wage detail report required under section 268.044 and notify the employer of the tax due. The taxes and any ~~additional~~ special assessments, fees, or surcharges ~~shall~~ must be paid to the trust fund and must be received by the department on or before the last day of the month following the end of the calendar quarter.

(b) The tax amount computed, if not a whole dollar, ~~shall be~~ is rounded down to the next lower whole dollar.

(c) If for any reason the wages on the wage detail report under section 268.044 are adjusted for any quarter, the commissioner shall recompute the taxes due for that quarter and assess the employer for any amount due or credit the employer as appropriate.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective January 1, 2008.

Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.051, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

Subd. 5. **Tax rate for new employers.** (a) Each new taxpaying employer that does not qualify for an experience rating under subdivision 3, except new employers in a high experience rating industry, ~~shall~~ must be assigned, for a calendar year, a tax rate the higher of (1) one percent, or (2) the tax rate computed, to the nearest one-hundredth of a percent, by dividing the total amount of unemployment benefits paid all applicants during the 48 calendar months ending on June 30 of the prior calendar year by the total taxable wages of all taxpaying employers during the same period, plus the applicable base tax rate and any additional assessments under subdivision 2, paragraph (d).

(b) Each new taxpaying employer in a high experience rating industry that does not qualify for an experience rating under subdivision 3, ~~shall~~ must be assigned, for a calendar year, a tax rate of 8.00 percent, plus the applicable base tax rate and any additional assessments under subdivision 2, paragraph (d).

An employer is considered to be in a high experience rating industry if:

(1) the employer is engaged in residential, commercial, or industrial construction, including general contractors;

(2) the employer is engaged in sand, gravel, or limestone mining;

(3) the employer is engaged in the manufacturing of concrete, concrete products, or asphalt; or

(4) the employer is engaged in road building, repair, or resurfacing, including bridge and tunnels and residential and commercial driveways and parking lots.

(c) The commissioner shall send to the new employer, by mail or electronic transmission, notice of the tax rate assigned. An employer may ~~protest~~ appeal the assignment of a tax rate in accordance with the procedures in subdivision 6, paragraph (c).

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section applies to tax rate notices issued on or after September 30, 2007.

Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.051, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

Subd. 6. **Notice of tax rate.** (a) On or before each December 15, the commissioner shall notify each employer by mail or electronic transmission of the employer's tax rate, along with any additional assessments, fees, or surcharges, for the following calendar year. The notice ~~shall~~ must contain the base tax rate and the factors used in determining the employer's experience rating. Unless ~~a protest~~ an appeal of the tax rate is made, the computed tax rate ~~shall be~~ is final, except for fraud or recomputation required under subdivision 4 or 4a, and ~~shall be~~ is the rate at which taxes ~~shall~~ must be paid. A recomputed tax rate under subdivision 4 or 4a ~~shall be~~ is the rate applicable for the quarter that includes the date of acquisition and any quarter thereafter during the calendar year in which the acquisition occurred. The tax rate ~~shall~~ is not ~~be~~ subject to collateral attack by way of claim for a credit adjustment or refund, or otherwise.

(b) If the legislature, ~~subsequent to~~ after the sending of the tax rate, changes any of the factors used to determine the rate, a new tax rate based on the new factors ~~shall~~ must be computed and sent to the employer.

(c) A review of an employer's tax rate may be obtained by the employer filing ~~a protest~~ an appeal within ~~30~~ 20 calendar days from the date the tax rate notice was sent to the employer. ~~Upon receipt of the protest, the commissioner shall review the tax rate to determine whether or not there has been any error in computation or assignment of the tax rate. The commissioner shall either affirm or make a redetermination of the rate and a notice of the affirmation or redetermination shall be sent to the employer by mail or electronic transmission. The affirmation or redetermination shall be final unless the employer files an appeal within 30 calendar days after the date the affirmation or redetermination was sent. Proceedings on the appeal shall be~~ are conducted in accordance with section 268.105.

(d) The commissioner may at any time upon the commissioner's own motion correct any error in the ~~computation or the assignment of an employer's tax rate.~~

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective for determinations issued on or after September 30, 2007.

Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.053, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Determination, ~~protest,~~ and appeal.** The commissioner shall notify each nonprofit organization by mail or electronic transmission of any determination of its status as an employer with covered employment and of the effective date of any election or termination of election. ~~The determinations shall be final unless a protest is filed within 30 calendar days after sending of the determination. Upon receipt of a protest, the commissioner shall review all available evidence and determine whether an error has been made. The commissioner shall send to the nonprofit organization, by mail or electronic transmission, an affirmation or redetermination. The affirmation or redetermination shall~~ be determination is final unless an appeal is filed within ~~30~~ 20 calendar days of sending

the ~~affirmation or redetermination~~ determination. Proceedings on the appeal ~~shall be~~ are conducted in accordance with section 268.105.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective for determinations issued on or after September 30, 2007.

Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.057, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

Subd. 7. **Credit adjustments, refunds.** (a) If an employer makes an application for a credit adjustment of any amount paid under this chapter or section 116L.20 within four years of the date that the payment was due, in a manner and format prescribed by the commissioner, and the commissioner determines that the payment or any portion was erroneous, the commissioner shall make an adjustment and issue a credit without interest. If a credit cannot be used, the commissioner shall refund, without interest, the amount erroneously paid. The commissioner, on the commissioner's own motion, may make a credit adjustment or refund under this subdivision.

Any refund returned to the commissioner ~~shall be~~ is considered unclaimed property under chapter 345.

(b) If a credit adjustment or refund is denied in whole or in part, a notice of denial ~~shall must~~ be sent to the employer by mail or electronic transmission. ~~Within 30 calendar days after sending of~~ The notice of denial, ~~the employer may protest.~~

~~Upon receipt of a timely protest, the commissioner shall review the denial and either affirm the denial or redetermine the credit adjustment or refund. The affirmation of denial or redetermination of the credit adjustment or refund, sent by mail or electronic transmission, shall be~~ is final unless an employer files an appeal within ~~30~~ 20 calendar days after sending. Proceedings on the appeal ~~shall be~~ are conducted in accordance with section 268.105.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective for all denials issued on or after September 30, 2007.

Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.063, is amended to read:

268.063 PERSONAL LIABILITY.

(a) Any officer, director, or employee of a corporation or any manager, governor, member, or employee of a limited liability company who

(1) either individually or jointly with others, have or should have had control of, supervision over, or responsibility for paying the amounts due under this chapter or section 116L.20, and

(2) knowingly fails to pay the amounts due, ~~shall be~~ is personally liable for the amount due in the event the employer does not pay.

For purposes of this section, "knowingly" means that the facts demonstrate that the responsible individual used or allowed the use of corporate or company assets to pay other creditors knowing that the amounts due under this chapter were unpaid. An evil motive or intent to defraud is not necessary.

(b) Any partner of a limited liability partnership, or professional limited liability partnership, ~~shall be~~ is jointly and severally liable for any amount due under this chapter or section 116L.20 in the event the employer does not pay.

(c) Any personal representative of the estate of a decedent or fiduciary who voluntarily distributes the assets without reserving a sufficient amount to pay the amount due ~~shall be~~ is personally liable for the deficiency.

(d) The personal liability of any individual ~~shall survive~~ survives dissolution, reorganization, receivership, or assignment for the benefit of creditors. For the purposes of this section, all wages paid by the employer ~~shall be~~ are considered earned from the individual determined to be personally liable.

(e) The commissioner shall make a determination as to personal liability. The determination ~~shall be~~ is final unless the individual found to be personally liable, within ~~30~~ 20 calendar days after sending, by mail or electronic transmission, a notice of determination, files a protest. ~~Upon receipt of the protest, the commissioner shall reexamine the personal liability determination and either affirm or redetermine the assessment of personal liability and a notice of the affirmation or redetermination shall be sent to the individual by mail or electronic transmission. The affirmation or redetermination shall become final unless an appeal is filed within 30 calendar days after the date of sending. Proceedings on the appeal shall be~~ are conducted in accordance with section 268.105.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective for determinations issued on or after September 30, 2007.

Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.07, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Benefit account requirements and weekly unemployment benefit amount and maximum amount of unemployment benefits.** (a) To establish a benefit account, an applicant must have:

- (1) high quarter wage credits of ~~at least~~ \$1,000 or more; and
- (2) wage credits, in other than the high quarter, of ~~at least~~ \$250 or more.

(b) If an applicant has established a benefit account, the weekly unemployment benefit amount available during the benefit year ~~shall be~~ is the higher of:

- (1) 50 percent of the applicant's average weekly wage during the base period, to a maximum of $66\frac{2}{3}$ percent of the state's average weekly wage; or
- (2) 50 percent of the applicant's average weekly wage during the high quarter, to a maximum of ~~45~~ 43 percent of the state's average weekly wage.

The applicant's average weekly wage under clause (1) ~~shall be~~ is computed by dividing the total wage credits by 52. The applicant's average weekly wage under clause (2) ~~shall be~~ is computed by dividing the high quarter wage credits by 13.

(c) The state's maximum weekly unemployment benefit amount and an applicant's weekly unemployment benefit amount and maximum amount of unemployment benefits available ~~shall be~~ is rounded down to the next lower whole dollar. The state's maximum weekly benefit amount, computed in accordance with section 268.035, subdivision 23, ~~shall apply~~ applies to a benefit account established effective on or after the ~~first~~ last Sunday in ~~August~~ October. Once established, an applicant's weekly unemployment benefit

amount ~~shall~~ is not ~~be~~ affected by the ~~first~~ last Sunday in ~~August~~ October change in the state's maximum weekly unemployment benefit amount.

(d) The maximum amount of unemployment benefits available on any benefit account ~~shall be~~ is the lower of:

- (1) 33-1/3 percent of the applicant's total wage credits; or
- (2) 26 times the applicant's weekly unemployment benefit amount.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective December 1, 2007.

Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.085, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Not eligible.** An applicant ~~shall not be eligible to receive~~ is ineligible for unemployment benefits for any week:

- (1) that occurs before the effective date of a benefit account;
- (2) that the applicant, at the beginning of the week, has an outstanding fraud overpayment balance under section 268.18, subdivision 2, including any penalties and interest;

(3) that occurs in a period when the applicant is a student in attendance at, or on vacation from a secondary school including the period between academic years or terms;

~~(3)~~ (4) that the applicant is incarcerated or performing court ordered community service. The applicant's weekly unemployment benefit amount ~~shall be~~ is reduced by one-fifth for each day the applicant is incarcerated or performing court ordered community service. If the computation of the reduced unemployment benefits is not a whole dollar, it ~~shall be~~ is rounded down to the next lower whole dollar;

~~(4)~~ (5) that the applicant fails or refuses to provide information on an issue of eligibility ineligibility required under section 268.101 ~~or an issue of disqualification required under section 268.101;~~

~~(5)~~ (6) that the applicant is performing services 32 hours or more, in employment, covered employment, noncovered employment, volunteer work, or self-employment regardless of the amount of any earnings; or

~~(6)~~ (7) with respect to which the applicant is receiving, has received, or has filed an application for unemployment benefits under any federal law or the law of any other state. If the appropriate agency finally determines that the applicant is not entitled to the unemployment benefits, this clause ~~shall~~ does not apply.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective and applies to all outstanding fraud overpayment balances, including penalty and interest, as of September 30, 2007.

Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.085, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Payments that delay unemployment benefits.** (a) An applicant ~~shall~~ is not ~~be~~ eligible to receive unemployment benefits for any week with respect to which the applicant is receiving, has received, or has filed for payment, equal to or in excess of the applicant's weekly unemployment benefit amount, in the form of:

- (1) vacation pay paid upon temporary, indefinite, or seasonal separation. This clause ~~shall~~ does not apply to vacation pay paid upon a permanent separation from employment;

(2) severance pay, bonus pay, sick pay, and any other ~~money~~ payments, except earnings under subdivision 5, and back pay under subdivision 6, paid by an employer because of, upon, or after separation from employment, but only if the ~~money~~ payment is considered wages at the time of payment under section 268.035, subdivision 29, ~~or United States Code, title 26, section 3121, clause (2), of the Federal Insurance Contribution Act, or~~

(3) pension, retirement, or annuity payments from any plan contributed to by a base period employer including the United States government, except Social Security benefits ~~which that~~ are provided for in subdivision 4. The base period employer is considered to have contributed to the plan if the contribution is excluded from the definition of wages under section 268.035, subdivision 29, clause (1), or United States Code, title 26, section 3121, clause (2), of the Federal Insurance Contribution Act.

An applicant ~~shall is~~ not ~~be~~ considered to have received the lump sum payment if the applicant immediately deposits that payment in a qualified pension plan or account, ~~or.~~

~~(4) holiday pay.~~

(b) This subdivision ~~shall apply~~ applies to all the weeks of payment ~~and shall be.~~ Payments under paragraph (a), clauses (1) and (2), are applied to the period immediately following the last day of employment: and the number of weeks of payment shall be, for purposes of those clauses, is determined as follows:

(1) if the payments are made periodically, the total of the payments to be received ~~shall be is~~ divided by the applicant's last level of regular weekly pay from the employer; or

(2) if the payment is made in a lump sum, that sum ~~shall be is~~ divided by the applicant's last level of regular weekly pay from the employer.

(c) If the payment is less than the applicant's weekly unemployment benefit amount, unemployment benefits ~~shall be are~~ reduced by the amount of the payment. If the computation of reduced unemployment benefits is not a whole dollar, it ~~shall be is~~ rounded down to the next lower whole dollar.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective for unemployment benefits paid on or after September 30, 2007, regardless of when the continued request was filed or the week for which the unemployment benefits are paid.

Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.085, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **Social Security benefits.** (a) Any applicant aged 62 or over ~~shall be is~~ required to state when filing an application for unemployment benefits and when filing continued ~~biweekly~~ requests for unemployment benefits ~~whether~~ if the applicant is receiving, has filed for, or intends to file for, primary Social Security old age benefits for any week during the benefit year.

If the effective date of the applicant's Social Security claim for old age benefits is, or will be, after the start of the base period, there shall must be deducted from an applicant's weekly unemployment benefit amount 50 percent of the weekly equivalent of the primary Social Security old age benefit the applicant has received, has filed for, or intends to file for, with respect to that week.

If the effective date of the applicant's Social Security claim for old age benefits is before the start of the base period, there is no deduction from the applicant's weekly unemployment benefit amount.

(b) An applicant who is receiving, has received, or has filed for primary Social Security disability benefits for any week during the benefit year ~~shall~~ must be determined unable to work and unavailable for suitable employment for that week, unless:

(1) the Social Security Administration approved the collecting of primary Social Security disability benefits each month the applicant was employed during the base period; or

(2) the applicant provides a statement from an appropriate health care professional who is aware of the applicant's Social Security disability claim and the basis for that claim, certifying that the applicant is able to work and available for suitable employment.

If an applicant meets the requirements of clause (1) ~~or~~ there is no deduction from the applicant's weekly benefit amount for any Social Security disability benefits. If only clause (2) applies, then there ~~shall~~ must be deducted from the applicant's weekly unemployment benefit amount 50 percent of the weekly equivalent of the primary Social Security disability benefits the applicant is receiving, has received, or has filed for, with respect to that week; provided, however, that if the Social Security Administration determines that an individual is not entitled to receive primary Social Security disability benefits for any week the applicant has applied for those benefits, the 50 percent deduction ~~shall~~ does not apply to that week.

(c) Information from the Social Security Administration ~~shall be~~ is considered conclusive, absent specific evidence showing that the information was erroneous.

(d) If the computation of the reduced unemployment benefits is not a whole dollar, it ~~shall be~~ is rounded down to the next lower whole dollar.

(e) This subdivision does not apply to Social Security survivor benefits.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective for unemployment insurance benefit accounts filed effective on or after September 30, 2007.

Sec. 16. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.095, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Quit.** An applicant who quit employment ~~shall be disqualified from~~ is ineligible for all unemployment benefits according to subdivision 10 except when:

(1) the applicant quit the employment because of a good reason caused by the employer as defined in subdivision 3;

(2) the applicant quit the employment to accept other covered employment that provided substantially better terms and conditions of employment, but the applicant did not work long enough at the second employment to have sufficient subsequent earnings to satisfy the disqualification period of ineligibility that would otherwise be imposed under subdivision 10 for quitting the first employment;

(3) the applicant quit the employment within 30 calendar days of beginning the employment because the employment was unsuitable for the applicant;

(4) the employment was unsuitable for the applicant and the applicant quit to enter reemployment assistance training;

(5) the employment was part time and the applicant also had full-time employment in the base period, from which full-time employment the applicant separated because of nonqualifying reasons for which the applicant was held not to be ineligible, and

the wage credits from the full-time employment are sufficient to meet the minimum requirements to establish a benefit account under section 268.07;

(6) the applicant quit because the employer notified the applicant that the applicant was going to be laid off ~~due to~~ because of lack of work within 30 calendar days. An applicant who quit employment within 30 calendar days of a notified date of layoff ~~due to~~ because of lack of work ~~shall be disqualified from~~ is ineligible for unemployment benefits through the end of the week that includes the scheduled date of layoff;

(7) the applicant quit the employment because the applicant's serious illness or injury made it medically necessary that the applicant quit, provided that the applicant inform the employer of the serious illness or injury and request accommodation and no reasonable accommodation is made available.

If the applicant's serious illness is chemical dependency, this exception ~~shall~~ does not apply if the applicant was previously diagnosed as chemically dependent or had treatment for chemical dependency, and since that diagnosis or treatment has failed to make consistent efforts to control the chemical dependency; ~~or~~.

This exception raises an issue of the applicant's being able to work under section 268.085, subdivision 1, that the commissioner shall determine;

(8) the applicant's loss of child care for the applicant's minor child caused the applicant to quit the employment, provided the applicant made reasonable effort to obtain other child care and requested time off or other accommodation from the employer and no reasonable accommodation is available.

This exception raises an issue of the applicant's availability for suitable employment under section 268.085, subdivision 1, that the commissioner shall determine; or

(9) domestic abuse of the applicant or the applicant's minor child, necessitated the applicant's quitting the employment. Domestic abuse shall must be shown by one or more of the following:

(i) a district court order for protection or other documentation of equitable relief issued by a court;

(ii) a police record documenting the domestic abuse;

(iii) documentation that the perpetrator of the domestic abuse has been convicted of the offense of domestic abuse;

(iv) medical documentation of domestic abuse; or

(v) written statement that the applicant or the applicant's minor child is a victim of domestic abuse, provided by a social worker, member of the clergy, shelter worker, attorney at law, or other professional who has assisted the applicant in dealing with the domestic abuse.

Domestic abuse for purposes of this clause ~~shall be~~ is defined under section 518B.01.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective and applies to all determinations and decisions issued on or after September 30, 2007.

Sec. 17. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.095, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

Subd. 6. **Employment misconduct defined.** (a) Employment misconduct means any intentional, negligent, or indifferent conduct, on the job or off the job (1) that displays clearly a serious violation of the standards of behavior the employer has the right to reasonably expect of the employee, or (2) that displays clearly a substantial lack of concern for the employment.

Inefficiency, inadvertence, simple unsatisfactory conduct, a single incident that does not have a significant adverse impact on the employer, conduct an average reasonable employee would have engaged in under the circumstances, poor performance because of inability or incapacity, good faith errors in judgment if judgment was required, or absence because of illness or injury with proper notice to the employer, are not employment misconduct.

(b) Conduct that was a direct result of the applicant's chemical dependency is not employment misconduct unless the applicant was previously diagnosed chemically dependent or had treatment for chemical dependency, and since that diagnosis or treatment has failed to make consistent efforts to control the chemical dependency.

(c) Conduct that was a result of the applicant, or the applicant's minor child, being a victim of domestic abuse as defined under section 518B.01, is not employment misconduct. Domestic abuse ~~shall~~ must be shown as provided for in section 268.095, subdivision 1, clause ~~(8)~~ (9).

(d) A driving offense in violation of sections 169A.20, 169A.31, or 169A.50 to 169A.53 that interferes with or adversely affects the employment is employment misconduct.

(e) The definition of employment misconduct provided by this subdivision ~~shall be~~ is exclusive and no other definition ~~shall apply~~ applies.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective and applies to all determinations and decisions issued on or after September 30, 2007.

Sec. 18. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.105, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Evidentiary hearing by an unemployment law judge.** (a) Upon a timely appeal having been filed, the department ~~shall~~ must send, by mail or electronic transmission, a notice of appeal to all involved parties that an appeal has been filed, that a de novo due process evidentiary hearing will be scheduled, and that the parties have certain rights and responsibilities regarding the hearing. The department ~~shall~~ must set a time and place for a de novo due process evidentiary hearing and send notice to any involved applicant and any involved employer, by mail or electronic transmission, not less than ten calendar days ~~prior to~~ before the date of the hearing.

(b) The evidentiary hearing ~~shall be~~ is conducted by an unemployment law judge without regard to any ~~common-law~~ burden of proof as an evidence gathering inquiry and not an adversarial proceeding. The unemployment law judge ~~shall~~ must ensure that all relevant facts are clearly and fully developed. The department ~~shall~~ may adopt rules on evidentiary hearings. The rules need not conform to common law or statutory rules of evidence and other technical rules of procedure. The department ~~shall have~~ has discretion regarding the method by which the evidentiary hearing is conducted. A report of any employee of the department, except a determination, made in the regular course of the employee's duties, ~~shall be~~ is competent evidence of the facts contained in it.

(c) After the conclusion of the hearing, upon the evidence obtained, the unemployment law judge ~~shall~~ must make findings of fact and decision and send those, by mail or electronic transmission, to all involved parties. When the credibility of an involved party or witness testifying in an evidentiary hearing has a significant effect on the outcome of a decision, the unemployment law judge must set out the reason for crediting or discrediting that testimony. The unemployment law judge's decision is final unless a request for reconsideration is filed ~~pursuant to~~ under subdivision 2.

(d) Regardless of paragraph (c), if the appealing party fails to participate in the evidentiary hearing, the unemployment law judge has the discretion to dismiss the appeal by summary order. By failing to participate, the appealing party is considered to have failed to exhaust available administrative remedies unless the appealing party files a request for reconsideration under subdivision 2 and establishes good cause for failing to participate in the evidentiary hearing under subdivision 2, paragraph (d). Submission of a written statement does not constitute participation. The applicant must participate personally and appearance solely by a representative does not constitute participation.

(e) Only employees of the department who are attorneys ~~shall~~ licensed to practice law in Minnesota may serve as unemployment law judges. The commissioner may transfer to another unemployment law judge any proceedings pending before an unemployment law judge.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section applies to evidentiary hearings conducted on or after 30 days following the date of final enactment.

Sec. 19. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.18, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Overpayment ~~due to~~ because of fraud.** (a) Any applicant who receives unemployment benefits by knowingly misrepresenting, misstating, or failing to disclose any material fact, or who makes a false statement or representation without a good faith belief as to the correctness of the statement or representation, has committed fraud. After the discovery of facts indicating fraud, the commissioner shall make a determination that the applicant obtained unemployment benefits by fraud and that the applicant must promptly repay the unemployment benefits to the trust fund. In addition, the commissioner shall assess a penalty equal to ~~25~~ percent of the amount fraudulently obtained. ~~If the applicant had a prior overpayment due to fraud, the commissioner shall, on the present overpayment, assess a penalty equal to 50~~ 40 percent of the amount fraudulently obtained. This penalty is in addition to penalties under section 268.182.

(b) Unless the applicant files an appeal within ~~30~~ 20 calendar days after the sending of the determination of overpayment by fraud to the applicant by mail or electronic transmission, the determination ~~shall become~~ is final. Proceedings on the appeal ~~shall be~~ are conducted in accordance with section 268.105.

(c) If the applicant fails to repay the unemployment benefits, penalty, and interest assessed, ~~the commissioner shall offset from future unemployment benefits otherwise payable the total amount due.~~ the total due may ~~also~~ be collected by the same methods as delinquent payments from an employer. A determination of overpayment by fraud ~~shall~~ must state the methods of collection the commissioner may use to recover the overpayment. Money received in repayment of fraudulently obtained unemployment benefits, penalties, and interest ~~shall~~ is first ~~be~~ applied to the unemployment benefits overpaid, then to the penalty amount due, then to any interest due. 62.5 percent of the

payments made toward the penalty ~~shall be~~ are credited to the contingent account and 37.5 percent credited to the administration account for deterring, detecting, or collecting overpayments.

(d) If an applicant has been overpaid unemployment benefits under the law of another state because of fraud and that state certifies that the applicant is liable to repay the unemployment benefits and requests the commissioner to recover the overpayment, the commissioner may offset from future unemployment benefits otherwise payable the amount of overpayment.

(e) Unemployment benefits paid for weeks more than four years ~~prior to~~ before the date of a determination of overpayment by fraud issued under this subdivision ~~shall~~ are not ~~be~~ considered overpaid unemployment benefits.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective for all determinations of overpayment by fraud issued on or after September 30, 2007.

Sec. 20. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.194, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** There is ~~hereby~~ established as a special state trust fund, separate and apart from all other public money or funds of this state, an unemployment insurance trust fund, that ~~shall be~~ is administered by the commissioner exclusively for the payment of unemployment benefits. This trust fund ~~shall consist~~ consists of:

- (1) all taxes collected;
- (2) interest earned upon any money in the trust fund;
- (3) reimbursements paid by nonprofit organizations and the state and political subdivisions;
- (4) ~~voluntary~~ tax rate buydown payments under section 268.051, subdivision 7;
- (5) any money received as a loan from the federal unemployment trust fund in accordance with United States Code, title 42, section 1321, of the Social Security Act;
- (6) any other money received ~~pursuant to~~ under a reciprocal unemployment benefit arrangement with the federal government or any other state;
- (7) ~~all~~ money recovered on overpaid unemployment benefits except, if allowed by federal law, five percent of any recovered amount is credited to the administration account;
- (8) all money recovered on losses sustained by the trust fund;
- (9) all money received from the contingent account under section 268.196, subdivision 3;
- (10) all money credited to the account of Minnesota in the federal unemployment trust fund ~~pursuant to~~ under United States Code, title 42, section 1103, of the Social Security Act, also known as the Reed Act; and
- (11) all money received for the trust fund from any other source.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective September 30, 2007.

Sec. 21. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.196, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Administration account.** (a) There is ~~hereby~~ created in the state treasury a special account to be known as the administration account. All money that is deposited or paid into this account ~~shall be~~ is continuously available to the commissioner for expenditure to administer the Minnesota unemployment insurance program, and ~~shall~~ does not lapse at any time. The administration account ~~shall consist~~ consists of:

(1) all money received from the federal government to administer the Minnesota unemployment insurance program;

(2) five percent of any money recovered on overpaid unemployment benefits as provided for in section 268.194, subdivision 1, clause (7), which must be used for deterring, detecting, and collecting overpaid unemployment benefits;

(3) any money received as compensation for services or facilities supplied to the federal government or any other state;

~~(3)~~ (4) any amounts received for losses sustained by this account or by reason of damage to equipment or supplies; and

~~(4)~~ (5) any proceeds from the sale or disposition of any equipment or supplies that may no longer be necessary for the proper administration of those sections.

(b) All money in this account ~~shall~~ must be deposited, administered, and disbursed in the same manner and under the same conditions and requirements as are provided by law for the other special accounts in the state treasury. The commissioner of finance, as treasurer and custodian of this account, ~~shall be~~ is liable for the faithful performance of duties in connection with this account.

(c) All money in this account ~~shall~~ must be spent ~~solely~~ for the purposes and in the amounts found necessary by the United States Secretary of Labor for the proper and efficient administration of the Minnesota unemployment insurance program.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective September 30, 2007.

Sec. 22. **MAXIMUM WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT.**

Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 268.07, subdivision 2, paragraph (b), clause (2), the maximum amount of weekly unemployment benefits available based upon the high quarter calculation is \$351.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment and sunsets November 1, 2008.

Sec. 23. **REPEALER.**

(a) Minnesota Statutes 2006, sections 268.0435; and 268.0511, are repealed effective January 1, 2008.

(b) Minnesota Statutes 2006, sections 268.085, subdivision 10; and 268.103, subdivision 4, are repealed effective September 30, 2007.

ARTICLE 2
POLICY AND TECHNICAL CHANGES

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.035, subdivision 23, is amended to read:

Subd. 23. **State's average annual and average weekly wage.** (a) On or before June 30 of each year, the commissioner shall calculate the state's average annual wage and the state's average weekly wage in the following manner:

(1) The sum of the total monthly covered employment reported by all employers for the prior calendar year ~~shall be~~ is divided by 12 to calculate the average monthly covered employment.

(2) The sum of the total wages paid for all covered employment reported by all employers for the prior calendar year ~~shall be~~ is divided by the average monthly covered employment to calculate the state's average annual wage.

(3) The state's average annual wage ~~shall be~~ is divided by 52 to calculate the state's average weekly wage.

(b) For purposes of calculating the amount of taxable wages, the state's average annual wage ~~shall apply~~ applies to the calendar year following the calculation.

(c) For purposes of calculating the state's maximum weekly unemployment benefit amount available on any benefit account under section 268.07, subdivision 2, the state's average weekly wage ~~shall apply~~ applies to the one-year period beginning the ~~first~~ last Sunday in ~~August~~ October of the calendar year of the calculation.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective December 1, 2007.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.051, subdivision 1a, is amended to read:

Subd. 1a. **Payments by electronic payment required.** (a) Every employer that reports ~~500~~ 50 or more employees in any calendar quarter on the wage detail report required under section 268.044 ~~shall must~~ make any payments due under this chapter and section 116L.20 by electronic payment.

(b) All third-party processors, paying ~~quarterly taxes~~ on behalf of a client company, ~~shall must~~ make any payments due under this chapter and section 116L.20 by electronic payment.

(c) Regardless of paragraph (a) or (b), the commissioner ~~shall have~~ has the discretion to accept payment by other means.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective January 1, 2008.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.0625, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **Notice and right to hearing.** At least 30 calendar days before the commissioner notifies a licensing authority, a notice of action under this section ~~shall must~~ be sent to the licensee by mail or electronic transmission. If the licensee disputes the action, the licensee must appeal within ~~30~~ 20 calendar days after the sending of the notice to the licensee. The only issue on any appeal is whether the commissioner has complied

with the requirements of this section. Proceedings on the appeal ~~shall be~~ are conducted in accordance with section 268.105.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective for notices sent on or after September 30, 2007.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.065, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Determination of liability.** The commissioner shall make a determination as to the liability under this section. The determination ~~shall be~~ is final unless the contractor or person found to be liable files an appeal within ~~30~~ 20 calendar days after being sent the determination by mail or electronic transmission. Proceedings on the appeal ~~shall be~~ are conducted in accordance with section 268.105.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section applies to determinations issued on or after September 30, 2007.

Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.07, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Application for unemployment benefits; determination of benefit account.** (a) An application for unemployment benefits may be filed in person, by mail, or by electronic transmission as the commissioner ~~shall~~ may require. The applicant must be unemployed at the time the application is filed and must provide all requested information in the manner required. If the applicant is not unemployed at the time of the application or fails to provide all requested information, the communication ~~shall~~ is not ~~be~~ considered an application for unemployment benefits.

(b) The commissioner shall examine each application for unemployment benefits to determine the base period and the benefit year, and based upon all the covered employment in the base period the commissioner shall determine the weekly unemployment benefit amount available, if any, and the maximum amount of unemployment benefits available, if any. The determination ~~shall be~~ is known as the determination of benefit account. A determination of benefit account ~~shall~~ must be sent to the applicant and all base period employers, by mail or electronic transmission.

(c) If a base period employer did not provide wage information for the applicant as provided for in section 268.044, or provided erroneous information, the commissioner may accept an applicant certification as to wage credits, based upon the applicant's records, and issue a determination of benefit account.

(d) The commissioner may, at any time within 24 months from the establishment of a benefit account, reconsider any determination of benefit account and make an amended determination if the commissioner finds that the determination was incorrect for any reason. An amended determination ~~shall~~ must be promptly sent to the applicant and all base period employers, by mail or electronic transmission.

(e) If an amended determination of benefit account reduces the weekly unemployment benefit amount or maximum amount of unemployment benefits available, any unemployment benefits that have been paid greater than the applicant was entitled is considered an overpayment of unemployment benefits under section 268.18, subdivision 1. A determination or amended determination issued under this section that results in an overpayment of unemployment benefits must set out the amount of the overpayment and

the requirement under section 268.18, subdivision 1, that the overpaid unemployment benefits must be repaid.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section applies to all determinations issued on or after September 30, 2007.

Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.07, subdivision 3a, is amended to read:

Subd. 3a. **Right of appeal.** (a) A determination or amended determination of benefit account ~~shall be~~ is final unless an applicant or base period employer within ~~30~~ 20 calendar days after the sending of the determination or amended determination files an appeal. Every determination or amended determination of benefit account ~~shall~~ must contain a prominent statement indicating in clear language the consequences of not appealing. Proceedings on the appeal ~~shall be~~ are conducted in accordance with section 268.105.

(b) Any applicant or base period employer may appeal from a determination or amended determination of benefit account on the issue of whether services performed constitute employment and covered employment. Proceedings on the appeal ~~shall be~~ are conducted in accordance with section 268.105.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section applies to determinations issued on or after September 30, 2007.

Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.085, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

Subd. 5. **Deductible earnings.** (a) If the applicant has earnings, including holiday pay, with respect to any week, from employment, covered employment, noncovered employment, self-employment, or volunteer work, equal to or in excess of the applicant's weekly unemployment benefit amount, the applicant ~~shall be~~ is ineligible for unemployment benefits for that week.

(b) If the applicant has earnings, with respect to any week, that is less than the applicant's weekly unemployment benefit amount, from employment, covered employment, noncovered employment, self-employment, or volunteer work, ~~that amount over the following shall be~~ 55 percent of the earnings are deducted from the weekly unemployment benefit amount:

- (1) ~~25 percent of earnings or \$50, whichever is higher, and~~
- (2) ~~\$200 for earnings from service in the National Guard or a United States military reserve unit.~~

The resulting unemployment benefit, if not a whole dollar, ~~shall be~~ is rounded down to the next lower whole dollar.

(c) No deduction ~~shall be~~ is made from an applicant's weekly unemployment benefit amount for earnings from service in the National Guard or a United States military reserve unit or from direct service as a volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance service personnel. This exception to paragraphs (a) and (b) does not apply to on-call or standby pay provided to a volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance service personnel. No deduction ~~shall be~~ is made for jury duty pay or for pay as an election judge.

(d) The applicant may report deductible earnings on continued ~~biweekly~~ requests for unemployment benefits at the next lower whole dollar amount.

(e) Deductible earnings ~~shall~~ does not include any money considered a deductible payment under subdivision 3, but ~~shall include~~ includes all ~~other money~~ compensation considered wages under section 268.035, subdivision 29, and any other ~~money compensation~~ considered earned income under state and federal law for income tax purposes.

EFFECTIVE DATE. The striking of paragraph (b), clause (2), and the insertion of "service in the National Guard or a United States military reserve unit or from" in paragraph (c) are effective the Sunday following final enactment. The remainder of the section is effective for all unemployment benefits paid on or after September 30, 2007, regardless of when the continued request was filed or the week for which the unemployment benefits are paid.

Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.101, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

Subd. 6. **Overpayment.** A determination or amended determination that holds an applicant ~~disqualified or~~ ineligible for unemployment benefits for periods an applicant has been paid benefits is considered an overpayment of those unemployment benefits ~~under section 268.18, subdivision 1.~~ A determination or amended determination issued under this section that results in an overpayment of unemployment benefits must set out the amount of the overpayment and the requirement under section 268.18, subdivision 1, that the overpaid unemployment benefits must be repaid.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section applies to determinations issued on or after September 30, 2007.

Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.105, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Request for reconsideration.** (a) Any involved applicant, involved employer, or the commissioner may, within ~~30~~ 20 calendar days of the sending of the unemployment law judge's decision under subdivision 1, file a request for reconsideration asking the unemployment law judge to reconsider that decision. Section 268.103 ~~shall~~ apply applies to a request for reconsideration. If a request for reconsideration is timely filed, the unemployment law judge ~~shall~~ must issue an order:

- (1) modifying the findings of fact and decision issued under subdivision 1;
- (2) setting aside the findings of fact and decision issued under subdivision 1 and directing that an additional evidentiary hearing be conducted under subdivision 1; or
- (3) affirming the findings of fact and decision issued under subdivision 1.

(b) Upon a timely request for reconsideration having been filed, the department ~~shall~~ must send a notice, by mail or electronic transmission, to all involved parties that a request for reconsideration has been filed. The notice ~~shall~~ must inform the involved parties:

- (1) of the opportunity to provide comment on the request for reconsideration, and the right under subdivision 5 to obtain a copy of any recorded testimony and exhibits offered or received into evidence at the evidentiary hearing;
- (2) that providing specific comments as to a perceived factual or legal error in the decision, or a perceived error in procedure during the evidentiary hearing, will assist the unemployment law judge in deciding the request for reconsideration;

(3) of the right to obtain any comments and submissions provided by the other involved party regarding the request for reconsideration; and

(4) of the provisions of paragraph (c) regarding additional evidence.

This paragraph ~~shall~~ does not apply if paragraph (d) is applicable.

(c) In deciding a request for reconsideration, the unemployment law judge ~~shall~~ must not, except for purposes of determining whether to order an additional evidentiary hearing, consider any evidence that was not submitted at the evidentiary hearing conducted under subdivision 1.

The unemployment law judge must order an additional evidentiary hearing if an involved party shows that evidence which was not submitted at the evidentiary hearing: (1) would likely change the outcome of the decision and there was good cause for not having previously submitted that evidence; or (2) would show that the evidence that was submitted at the evidentiary hearing was likely false and that the likely false evidence had an effect on the outcome of the decision.

(d) If the involved applicant or involved employer who filed the request for reconsideration failed to participate in the evidentiary hearing conducted under subdivision 1, an order setting aside the findings of fact and decision and directing that an additional evidentiary hearing be conducted must be issued if the party who failed to participate had good cause for failing to do so. In the notice ~~of the~~ that a request for reconsideration has been filed, the party who failed to participate ~~shall~~ must be informed of the requirement, and provided the opportunity, to show good cause for failing to participate. If the unemployment law judge determines that good cause for failure to participate has not been shown, the unemployment law judge must state that in the order issued under paragraph (a).

Submission of a written statement at the evidentiary hearing under subdivision 1 ~~shall~~ does not constitute participation for purposes of this paragraph.

All involved parties must be informed of this paragraph with the notice of appeal and notice of hearing provided for in subdivision 1.

"Good cause" for purposes of this paragraph is a reason that would have prevented a reasonable person acting with due diligence from participating at the evidentiary hearing.

(e) A request for reconsideration ~~shall~~ must be decided by the unemployment law judge who issued the findings of fact and decision under subdivision 1 unless that unemployment law judge: (1) is no longer employed by the department; (2) is on an extended or indefinite leave; (3) has been disqualified from the proceedings on the judge's own motion; or (4) has been removed from the proceedings as provided for under subdivision 1 or applicable rule.

(f) The unemployment law judge ~~shall~~ must send to any involved applicant or involved employer, by mail or electronic transmission, the order issued under this subdivision. An order modifying the previously issued findings of fact and decision or an order affirming the previously issued findings of fact and decision ~~shall be~~ is the final department decision on the matter and ~~shall be~~ is final and binding on the involved applicant and involved employer unless judicial review is sought under subdivision 7.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section applies to decisions issued on or after September 30, 2007.

Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.105, subdivision 3a, is amended to read:

Subd. 3a. **Decisions.** (a) If an unemployment law judge's decision or order allows unemployment benefits to an applicant, the unemployment benefits ~~shall~~ must be paid regardless of any request for reconsideration or any appeal to the Minnesota Court of Appeals having been filed.

(b) If an unemployment law judge's decision or order modifies or reverses a determination, or prior decision of the unemployment law judge, allowing unemployment benefits to an applicant, any benefits paid ~~pursuant to~~ in accordance with the determination, or prior decision of the unemployment law judge, is considered an overpayment of those unemployment benefits ~~under section 268.18, subdivision 1.~~ A decision or order issued under this section that results in an overpayment of unemployment benefits must set out the amount of the overpayment and the requirement under section 268.18, subdivision 1, that the overpaid unemployment benefits must be repaid.

(c) If an unemployment law judge's order under subdivision 2 allows unemployment benefits to an applicant under section 268.095 because of a quit or discharge and the unemployment law judge's decision is reversed by the Minnesota Court of Appeals or the Supreme Court of Minnesota, any unemployment benefits paid the applicant ~~shall~~ is not ~~be~~ considered an overpayment of those unemployment benefits under section 268.18, subdivision 1.

(d) If an unemployment law judge, ~~pursuant to~~ under subdivision 2, orders the taking of additional evidence, the unemployment law judge's prior decision ~~shall~~ must continue to be enforced until new findings of fact and decision are made by the unemployment law judge.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section applies to decisions issued on or after September 30, 2007.

Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.131, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Cooperation with other state and federal government states on combining wages.** (a) In accordance with the requirements of United States Code, title 26, section 3304(a)(9)(B), the Federal Unemployment Tax Act, the commissioner shall participate in reciprocal arrangements with other states and the federal government, or both, for the payment of unemployment benefits on the basis of combining an applicant's wages and employment covered under this law with wages and employment covered under the unemployment insurance programs of other states or the federal government that from multiple states for the purposes of collecting unemployment benefits from a single state. The reciprocal agreement must include provisions for applying the base period of a single state law to ~~an~~ a benefit account involving the combining of an applicant's wages and employment and avoiding the duplicate use of wages by reason of such combining. ~~No~~ The commissioner may not enter into any reciprocal arrangement shall be entered into unless it contains provisions for reimbursements to the trust fund, by the other state ~~or the federal government~~, for unemployment benefits paid from the trust fund to applicants based upon wages and employment covered under the laws of the other state ~~or the federal government~~.

(b) The commissioner is authorized to pay unemployment benefits based upon an applicant's wages paid in covered employment in another state only if the applicant

is combining Minnesota wage credits with the wages paid in covered employment from another state or states.

(c) Section 268.23 does not apply to this subdivision.

(d) On any reciprocal arrangement, the wages paid an applicant from employment covered under an unemployment insurance program of another state or of the federal government, shall be are considered wages from covered employment for the purpose of determining the applicant's rights to unemployment benefits under the Minnesota Unemployment Insurance Law.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.18, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Nonfraud overpayment.** (a) Any applicant who (1) ~~by reason of the applicant's own mistake, or (2) because of an error by any employee of the department, or (3) because of a determination or amended determination issued pursuant to under section 268.07 or 268.101, or any other section of this chapter, or (4) (2) because of an appeal decision or order under section 268.105,~~ has received any unemployment benefits that the applicant was held not entitled to, shall must promptly repay the unemployment benefits to the trust fund. ~~The commissioner shall, as soon as the overpayment is discovered, determine the amount due and notify the applicant to repay the unemployment benefits.~~

~~(b) Unless the applicant files an appeal within 30 calendar days after the sending of the determination of overpayment to the applicant by mail or electronic transmission, the determination shall become final. Proceedings on the appeal shall be conducted in accordance with section 268.105. An applicant may not collaterally attack, by way of an appeal to an overpayment determination, any prior determination issued pursuant to section 268.07 or 268.101, or decision issued pursuant to section 268.105, that has become final.~~

~~(c) If the applicant fails to repay the unemployment benefits determined overpaid under this subdivision, the commissioner may offset from any future unemployment benefits otherwise payable the amount of the overpayment. Except when the overpayment resulted because the applicant failed to report deductible earnings or deductible or benefit delaying payments, no single offset shall may exceed 50 percent of the amount of the payment from which the offset is made. The overpayment may also be collected by the same methods as delinquent payments from an employer. A determination of overpayment shall state the methods of collection the commissioner may use to recover the overpayment.~~

~~(d) (c) If an applicant has been overpaid unemployment benefits under the law of another state, due to because of a reason other than fraud, and that state certifies that the applicant is liable under its law to repay the unemployment benefits and requests the commissioner to recover the overpayment, the commissioner may offset from future unemployment benefits otherwise payable the amount of overpayment, except that no single offset shall may exceed 50 percent of the amount of the payment from which the offset is made.~~

~~(e) (d) If under paragraph (b) or (c) or (d) the reduced unemployment benefits as a result of a 50 percent offset is not a whole dollar amount, it shall be is rounded down to the next lower whole dollar.~~

~~(f) Unemployment benefits paid for weeks more than three years prior to the date of a determination of overpayment issued under this subdivision shall not be considered overpaid unemployment benefits.~~

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective September 30, 2007.

Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.18, subdivision 2b, is amended to read:

Subd. 2b. **Interest.** (a) On any unemployment benefits fraudulently obtained, and any penalty amounts assessed under subdivision 2, the commissioner ~~may~~ shall assess interest at the rate of 1-1/2 percent per month on any amount that remains unpaid beginning 30 calendar days after the date of the determination of overpayment by fraud. A determination of overpayment by fraud ~~shall~~ must state that interest ~~shall~~ will be assessed.

(b) If ~~this subdivision became effective after the date of the determination, or the determination did not state that interest shall will~~ be assessed, interest ~~shall be~~ is assessed beginning 30 calendar days after notification, by mail or electronic transmission, to the applicant that interest is now assessed.

(c) Interest payments under this section ~~shall be~~ are credited to the administration account.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective September 30, 2007, and applies to all outstanding fraud overpayment balances as of that date.

Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.18, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **Cancellation of overpayments.** (a) If unemployment benefits ~~determined~~ overpaid under subdivision 1 are not repaid or offset from subsequent unemployment benefits as provided for in subdivision 1 within six years after the date of the determination ~~of overpayment or decision holding the applicant overpaid,~~ the commissioner shall cancel the overpayment balance, and no administrative or legal proceedings ~~shall~~ may be used to enforce collection of those amounts.

(b) If unemployment benefits determined overpaid under subdivision 2 including penalties and interest are not repaid ~~or offset from subsequent unemployment benefits as provided for in subdivision 2~~ within ~~ten~~ 15 years after the date of the determination of overpayment by fraud, the commissioner shall cancel the overpayment balance and any penalties and interest due, and no administrative or legal proceeding ~~shall~~ may be used to enforce collection of those amounts.

(c) The commissioner may cancel at any time any overpayment, including penalties and interest, that the commissioner determines is uncollectible ~~due to~~ because of death or bankruptcy.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective September 30, 2007, and applies to all overpayments existing as of that date.

Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.182, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Administrative penalties.** Any applicant who knowingly makes a false statement or representation, who knowingly fails to disclose a material fact, or who makes a false statement or representation without a good faith belief as to the correctness of the statement or representation, in order to obtain or in an attempt to obtain unemployment

benefits may be assessed, in addition to any other penalties, an administrative penalty of being ineligible for unemployment benefits for 13 to 104 weeks. A determination of ineligibility setting out the weeks the applicant ~~shall be~~ is ineligible shall must be sent to the applicant by mail or electronic transmission. Unless an appeal is filed within ~~30~~ 20 calendar days of sending, the determination ~~shall be~~ is final. ~~Proceeding~~ Proceedings on the appeal ~~shall be~~ are conducted in accordance with section 268.105.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section applies to determinations issued on or after September 30, 2007.

Sec. 16. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.184, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Administrative penalties.** (a) ~~ff~~ The commissioner finds shall penalize an employer if that ~~any~~ employer or any employee, officer, or agent of ~~any~~ that employer, is in collusion with any applicant for the purpose of assisting the applicant to receive unemployment benefits fraudulently, ~~the employer shall be penalized.~~ The penalty is \$500 or the amount of unemployment benefits determined to be overpaid, whichever is greater.

(b) ~~ff~~ The commissioner finds shall penalize an employer if that ~~any~~ employer or any employee, officer, or agent of ~~an~~ that employer has (1) made ~~(1)~~ a false statement or representation knowing it to be false, ~~including reporting employees on a wage detail report under section 268.044 knowing the employees actually are employed by a different employer, or,~~ (2) has made a false statement or representation without a good faith belief as to correctness of the statement or representation, or (3) ~~who~~ knowingly fails failed to disclose a material fact; but only if the employer's action:

(i) was taken to prevent or reduce the payment of unemployment benefits to any applicant ~~or,~~

(ii) was taken to reduce or avoid any payment required from an employer under this chapter or section 116L.20, ~~the employer shall be penalized; or~~

(iii) caused an overpayment of unemployment benefits to an applicant.

The penalty is \$500, or 50 percent of the overpaid or reduced unemployment benefits or payment required, whichever is greater.

(c) ~~ff~~ The commissioner finds shall penalize an employer if that ~~an~~ employer failed or refused to honor a subpoena issued under section 268.105, subdivision 4, or section 268.188, ~~the employer shall be penalized.~~ The penalty is \$500 and any costs of enforcing the subpoena, including attorney fees.

(d) Penalties under this subdivision ~~shall be~~ are in addition to any other penalties and subject to the same collection procedures that apply to past due taxes. Penalties ~~shall~~ must be paid ~~to the department~~ within 30 calendar days of assessment and credited to the contingent account.

(e) The assessment of the penalty ~~shall be~~ is final unless the employer files an appeal within ~~30~~ 20 calendar days after the sending of notice of the penalty to the employer by mail or electronic transmission. Proceedings on the appeal ~~shall be~~ are conducted in accordance with section 268.105.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective for notices of penalties sent on or after September 30, 2007.

Sec. 17. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.184, subdivision 1a, is amended to read:

Subd. 1a. **Notification and misreporting penalties.** (a) If the commissioner finds that any employer or agent of an employer failed to meet the notification requirements of section 268.051, subdivision 4, the employer ~~shall~~ must be assessed a penalty of \$5,000 or two percent of the first full quarterly payroll acquired, whichever is higher. Payroll is wages paid as defined in section 268.035, subdivision 30. The penalty under this paragraph ~~shall~~ must be canceled if the commissioner determines that the failure occurred because of ignorance or inadvertence.

(b) If the commissioner finds that any individual advised an employer to violate the employer's notification requirements under section 268.051, subdivision 4, the individual, and that individual's employer, ~~shall~~ must each be assessed the penalty in paragraph (a).

(c) If the commissioner finds that any person or agent of a person violated the reporting requirements of section 268.0435 or 268.046, the person ~~shall~~ must be assessed a penalty of \$5,000 or two percent of the quarterly payroll reported in violation of section 268.0435 or 268.046, whichever is higher. Payroll is wages paid as defined in section 268.035, subdivision 30.

(d) Penalties under this subdivision ~~shall be~~ are in addition to any other penalties and subject to the same collection procedures that apply to past due amounts from an employer. Penalties must be paid within 30 calendar days after sending of the notice of penalty.

(e) The assessment of a penalty ~~shall be~~ is final unless the person assessed files an appeal within ~~30~~ 20 calendar days after sending of the notice of the penalty by mail or electronic transmission. Proceedings on the appeal ~~shall be~~ are conducted in accordance with section 268.105.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section applies to assessments done on or after September 30, 2007.

Sec. 18. **[268.215] DAY OF THE WEEK AND DATE REQUIREMENT.**

(a) Every determination issued under this chapter that is subject to an appeal to an unemployment law judge must indicate the day of the week and the date, for example, Tuesday, August 1, 2006, that the determination is final and no longer subject to an appeal.

(b) Every decision issued by an unemployment law judge under section 268.105, subdivision 1, must indicate the day of the week and the date, for example, Tuesday, August 1, 2006, that the decision is final and no longer subject to reconsideration.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective September 30, 2007.

ARTICLE 3

HOUSEKEEPING PROVISIONS

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.035, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Scope.** ~~Unless the language or context clearly indicates that a different meaning is intended,~~ The words, terms, and phrases in this section ~~shall~~, for the purposes of the Minnesota Unemployment Insurance Law, have the meaning stated.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.035, subdivision 14, is amended to read:

Subd. 14. **Employer.** "Employer" means any person ~~which that~~ has had one or more employees during the current or the prior calendar year including any person that has elected, under section 268.042, to be subject to the Minnesota Unemployment Insurance Law and a joint venture composed of one or more employers.

An employee leasing company, professional employer organization, or similar person that has been assigned a tax ~~or reimbursable~~ account under section 268.046 is an employer for purposes of this chapter.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.035, subdivision 24, is amended to read:

Subd. 24. **Taxable wages.** (a) "Taxable wages" means those wages paid to an employee in covered employment each calendar year up to an amount equal to 60 percent of the state's average annual wage, rounded to the nearest \$1,000.

(b) Taxable wages includes the amount of wages paid for covered employment by the employer's predecessor when there has been an experience rating history transfer under section 268.051, subdivision 4.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.044, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Wage detail report.** (a) Each employer ~~that has employees in covered employment shall must~~ submit, under the account provided for in section 268.045 or 268.046, a quarterly wage detail report by electronic transmission, in a format prescribed by the commissioner. The report ~~shall must~~ include for each employee in covered employment during the calendar quarter, the employee's name, Social Security number, the total wages paid to the employee, and total number of paid hours worked. For employees exempt from the definition of employee in section 177.23, subdivision 7, clause (6), the employer ~~shall must~~ report 40 hours worked for each week any duties were performed by a full-time employee and ~~shall must~~ report a reasonable estimate of the hours worked for each week duties were performed by a part-time employee. In addition, the wage detail report ~~shall must~~ include the number of employees employed ~~on~~ during the payroll period that includes the 12th day of each calendar month and, if required by the commissioner, the report ~~shall must~~ be broken down by business location and, if section 268.046, subdivision 1, paragraph (b), or subdivision 2, paragraph (b), applies, by separate unit. ~~If the information required is not submitted in a manner and format prescribed by the commissioner, it shall not be considered a wage detail report.~~ The report is due and must be received by the commissioner on or before the last day of the month following the end of the calendar quarter. The commissioner may delay the due date on a specific calendar quarter in the event the department is unable to accept wage detail reports electronically.

(b) The employer may report the wages paid to the next lower whole dollar amount.

(c) An employer need not include the name of the employee or other required information on the wage detail report if disclosure is specifically exempted from being reported by federal law.

(d) A wage detail report must be submitted for each calendar quarter even though no wages were paid, unless the employer has notified the commissioner, under section 268.042, subdivision 1, paragraph (c), of termination of business.

Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.044, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Missing or erroneous information.** (a) Any employer that submits the wage detail report, but fails to include all employee information or enters erroneous information, ~~shall be~~ is subject to an administrative service fee of \$25 for each employee for whom the information is partially missing or erroneous.

(b) Any employer that submits the wage detail report, but fails to include an employee, ~~shall be~~ is subject to an administrative service ~~penalty fee~~ penalty fee equal to two percent of the total wages for each employee for whom the information is completely missing.

(c) An administrative service fee ~~or penalty~~ under this subdivision ~~shall~~ must be canceled if the commissioner determines that the failure or error by the employer occurred because of ignorance or inadvertence.

Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.051, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Computation of tax rates; additional assessments.** (a) For each calendar year the commissioner shall compute the tax rate of each taxpaying employer that qualifies for an experience rating by adding the base tax rate to the employer's experience rating along with assigning any appropriate additional assessment under paragraph (d).

(b) The base tax rate for the calendar year and any additional assessments under this subdivision ~~shall be~~ are determined based upon the amount in the trust fund on March 31 of the prior year as a percentage of total wages paid in covered employment. The base tax rate ~~shall be~~ is:

- (1) one-tenth of one percent if the trust fund is equal to or more than 0.75 percent;
- (2) two-tenths of one percent if the trust fund is less than 0.75 percent but equal to or more than 0.65 percent;
- (3) three-tenths of one percent if the trust fund is less than 0.65 percent but equal to or more than 0.55 percent; or
- (4) four-tenths of one percent if the trust fund is less than 0.55 percent.

(c) There ~~shall be~~ is a "falling trust fund adjustment" to the base tax rate for the calendar year if the amount in the trust fund on March 31 of the prior year is less than 0.75 percent of total wages paid in covered employment and:

- (1) the amount in the trust fund on March 31 of the prior year is ten percent or more below the amount in the trust fund on March 31 of the year ~~prior to~~ before that; or
- (2) the amount in the trust fund on March 31 of the prior year is greater than the amount in the trust fund on June 30 of that same year.

If a "falling trust fund adjustment" is applicable, then the base tax rate ~~shall be 0.1~~ is one-tenth of one percent greater than otherwise provided for under paragraph (b).

(d) In addition to the base tax rate ~~under paragraph (b),~~ there ~~shall be~~ is an additional assessment for the calendar year on ~~at~~ the quarterly unemployment taxes due from every taxpaying employer if the amount in the trust fund on March 31 of the prior year is less than ~~.55~~ 0.55 percent of total wages paid in covered employment. The assessment ~~shall be~~ is as follows:

- (1) a five percent assessment if the trust fund is less than 0.55 percent but equal to or more than 0.45 percent;

(2) a ten percent assessment if the trust fund is less than 0.45 percent but equal to or more than 0.35 percent; or

(3) a 14 percent assessment if the trust fund is less than 0.35 percent.

(e) For the purposes of this subdivision, the trust fund ~~shall~~ does not include any money borrowed from the federal unemployment trust fund ~~pursuant to~~ provided for in section 268.194, subdivision 6.

(f) For the purposes of this subdivision, total wages paid in covered employment ~~shall be~~ are those wages paid to all employees in covered employment during the calendar year ~~prior to~~ before the March 31 date used in paragraph (b).

~~(g) The commissioner may compute any assessment under this subdivision, and any assessment under subdivision 8, as a percentage of the employer's experience rating and the base tax rate, rounded to the nearest hundredth of a percent.~~

~~On tax rate notices sent under subdivision 6, any assessments under this subdivision may be combined with any special assessments for interest on federal loans provided for in subdivision 8 into a single combined assessment.~~

(g) The base tax rate and any additional assessments are assessed on all taxpaying employers to cover a portion of the costs to the trust fund for unemployment benefits paid that do not affect any single employer's future experience rating because:

(1) the employer's experience rating is limited by the maximum under subdivision 3, paragraph (b);

(2) the employer has ceased doing business; or

(3) the unemployment benefits paid have been determined not to be used in computing the employer's experience rating under section 268.047, subdivision 2 or 3.

Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.051, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Computation of a taxpaying employer's experience rating.** (a) On or before each December 15, the commissioner shall compute an experience rating for each taxpaying employer who has been ~~subject required~~ to paying unemployment taxes file wage detail reports for the 12 calendar months ending on the prior June 30. The experience rating computed ~~shall be~~ is applicable for the following calendar year.

The experience rating ~~shall be~~ is the ratio obtained by dividing 125 percent of the total unemployment benefits required under section 268.047 to be used in computing the employer's tax rate during the 48 calendar months ending on the prior June 30, by the employer's total taxable payroll for that same period.

(b) The experience rating ~~shall be~~ is computed to the nearest one-hundredth of a percent, to a maximum of 8.90 percent.

(c) The use of 125 percent of unemployment benefits paid under paragraph (a), rather than 100 percent of the amount of unemployment benefits paid, is done in order for the trust fund to recover from all taxpaying employers a portion of the costs of unemployment benefits paid that do not affect any individual employer's future experience rating because of the reasons set out in subdivision 2, paragraph (g).

Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.051, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **Experience rating history transfer.** (a) When:

(1) a taxpaying employer acquires all of the organization, trade or business, or workforce of another taxpaying employer; and

(2) there is 25 percent or more common ownership or there is substantially common management or control between the predecessor and successor, the experience rating history of the predecessor employer ~~shall be~~ is transferred ~~as of the date of acquisition~~ to the successor employer.

(b) When:

(1) a taxpaying employer acquires a portion, but less than all, of the organization, trade or business, or workforce of another taxpaying employer; and

(2) there is 25 percent or more common ownership or there is substantially common management or control between the predecessor and successor, the successor employer ~~shall acquire~~ acquires, as of the date of acquisition, the experience rating history attributable to the portion it acquired, and the predecessor employer ~~shall retain~~ retains the experience rating history attributable to the portion that it has retained. If the commissioner determines that sufficient information is not available to substantiate that a distinct severable portion was acquired and to assign the appropriate distinct severable portion of the experience rating history, the commissioner shall assign the successor employer that percentage of the predecessor employer's experience rating history equal to that percentage of the employment positions it has obtained, and the predecessor employer ~~shall retain~~ retains that percentage of the experience rating history equal to the percentage of the employment positions it has retained.

(c) The term "common ownership" for purposes of this subdivision includes ownership by a spouse, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, or first cousin, by birth or by marriage.

(d) Each successor employer that is subject to paragraph (a) or (b) must notify the commissioner of the acquisition by electronic transmission, in a format prescribed by the commissioner, within 30 calendar days of the date of acquisition. Any successor employer that fails to notify the commissioner is subject to the penalties under section 268.184, subdivision 1a, if the successor's experience rating was lower than the predecessor's experience rating at the time of the acquisition. Payments made toward the penalties shall be are credited to the administration account to be used to ensure integrity in the unemployment insurance program.

(e) If the successor employer under paragraphs (a) and (b) had an experience rating at the time of the acquisition, the transferred experience rating history of the predecessor ~~shall be~~ is combined with the successor's experience rating history, ~~as of the date of acquisition~~, for purposes of recomputing a tax rate.

(f) If there has been a transfer of an experience rating history under paragraph (a) or (b), employment with a predecessor employer ~~shall~~ is not ~~be~~ considered to have been terminated if similar employment is offered by the successor employer and accepted by the employee.

(g) The commissioner, upon notification of an employer, or upon the commissioner's own motion if the employer fails to provide the required notification, shall determine if an employer is a successor within the meaning of this subdivision. The commissioner shall, after determining the issue of succession or nonsuccession, recompute the tax rate under

subdivision 6 of all employers affected. The commissioner shall send the recomputed tax rate to all affected employers by mail or electronic transmission. Any affected employer may protest appeal the recomputed tax rate in accordance with the procedures in subdivision 6, paragraph (c).

(h) The "experience rating history" for purposes of this subdivision and subdivision 4a means ~~those factors set out in subdivision 3, paragraph (b), that make up an experience rating~~ the amount of unemployment benefits paid and the taxable wages that are being used and would be used in computing the current and any future experience rating.

For purposes of this chapter, an "acquisition" means anything that results in the obtaining by the successor employer, in any way or manner, of the organization, trade or business, or workforce of the predecessor employer.

A "distinct severable portion" in paragraph (b) means a location or unit separately identifiable within the employer's wage detail report under section 268.044.

(i) Regardless of the ownership, management, or control requirements of paragraph (a), if there is an acquisition or merger of a publicly held corporation by or with another publicly held corporation the experience rating histories of the corporations ~~shall be~~ are combined as of the date of acquisition or merger for the purpose of recomputing a tax rate.

Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.051, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

Subd. 7. **Tax rate buydown.** (a) Any taxpaying employer ~~who that~~ has been assigned a tax rate based upon an experience rating, and has no amounts past due under this chapter, may, upon the ~~voluntary~~ payment of an amount equivalent to any portion or all of the unemployment benefits used in computing the experience rating plus a surcharge of 25 percent, obtain a cancellation of unemployment benefits used equal to the payment made, less the surcharge. Upon the payment, the commissioner shall compute a new experience rating for the employer, and compute a new tax rate.

(b) ~~Voluntary~~ Payments for a tax rate buydown may be made only by electronic payment and must be received within 120 calendar days from the beginning of the calendar year for which the tax rate is effective.

Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.051, subdivision 8, is amended to read:

Subd. 8. **Special assessment for interest on federal loan.** (a) If on October 31 of any year, the commissioner, in consultation with the commissioner of finance, determines that an interest payment will be due during the following calendar year on any loan from the federal unemployment trust fund under section 268.194, subdivision 6, a special assessment on taxpaying employers will be in effect for the following calendar year. The legislature authorizes the commissioner, in consultation with the commissioner of finance, to determine the appropriate level of the assessment, from two percent to eight percent of the total quarterly unemployment taxes due based upon determined rates and assigned assessments under subdivision 2, that will be necessary to pay the interest due on the loan.

(b) The special assessment ~~shall~~ must be placed into a special account from which the commissioner shall pay any interest that has accrued on any loan from the federal unemployment trust fund provided for under section 268.194, subdivision 6. If, at the end of each calendar quarter, the commissioner, in consultation with the commissioner of finance, determines that the balance in this special account, including interest earned on the special account, is more than is necessary to pay the interest ~~which that~~ has

accrued on any loan as of that date, or will accrue over the following calendar quarter, the commissioner shall immediately pay to the trust fund the amount in excess of that necessary to pay the interest on any loan.

Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.066, is amended to read:

268.066 CANCELLATION OF AMOUNTS DUE FROM AN EMPLOYER.

(a) The commissioner shall cancel as uncollectible any amounts due from an employer under this chapter or section 116L.20, ~~which that~~ remain unpaid six years after the amounts have been first determined due, except where the delinquent amounts are secured by a notice of lien, a judgment, are in the process of garnishment, or are under a payment plan.

(b) The commissioner may cancel at any time as uncollectible any amount due, or any portion of an amount due, from an employer under this chapter or section 116L.20, that (1) are uncollectible due to death or bankruptcy, (2) the ~~Minnesota~~ Enterprise Division of the Department of Revenue under section 16D.04 was unable to collect, or (3) the commissioner determines that it is not in the public interest to pursue collection of the amount due.

Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.07, subdivision 3b, is amended to read:

Subd. 3b. **Limitations on applications and benefit accounts.** (a) ~~A benefit account shall be established. An application for unemployment benefits is effective the Sunday of the calendar week that the application for unemployment benefits was filed. Upon specific request of an applicant, an application for unemployment benefits may be backdated one calendar week prior to before the Sunday of the week the application was actually filed. An application shall may be backdated only if the applicant was unemployed throughout the period of the backdating. If an individual attempted to file an application for unemployment benefits, but was prevented from filing an application by the department, the benefit account shall be application is effective the Sunday of the calendar week the individual first attempted to file an application.~~

(b) A benefit account established under subdivision 2 is effective the date the application for unemployment benefits was effective.

(c) A benefit account, once established, may later be withdrawn only if:

(1) a new application for unemployment benefits is filed and a new benefit account is established at the time of the withdrawal; and

(2) the applicant has not served ~~a~~ the nonpayable waiting week under section 268.085, subdivision 1, clause (5).

A determination or amended determination ~~pursuant to under~~ section 268.101, that was issued before the withdrawal of the benefit account, ~~shall remain~~ remains in effect and ~~shall is~~ is not ~~be~~ voided by the withdrawal of the benefit account. A determination of ~~disqualification ineligibility~~ requiring subsequent earnings to satisfy the ~~disqualification period of ineligibility~~ under section 268.095, subdivision 10, ~~shall apply~~ applies to the weekly unemployment benefit amount on the new benefit account.

(~~c~~) (d) An application for unemployment benefits shall is not be allowed prior to before the Sunday following the expiration of the benefit year on a prior benefit account.

Except as allowed under paragraph (b), ~~a~~ an applicant may establish only one benefit account each 52 calendar weeks.

Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.085, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Eligibility conditions.** An applicant ~~shall~~ may be eligible to receive unemployment benefits for any week if:

(1) the applicant has an active benefit account and has filed a continued ~~biweekly~~ request for unemployment benefits for that week ~~pursuant to~~ under section 268.086;

(2) the week for which unemployment benefits are requested is in the applicant's benefit year;

(3) the applicant was unemployed as defined in section 268.035, subdivision 26;

(4) the applicant was able to work and was available for suitable employment, and was actively seeking suitable employment. The applicant's weekly unemployment benefit amount ~~shall be~~ is reduced one-fifth for each day the applicant is unable to work or is unavailable for suitable employment. If the computation of the reduced unemployment benefits is not a whole dollar, it ~~shall be~~ is rounded down to the next lower whole dollar.

This clause ~~shall~~ does not apply to an applicant who is in reemployment assistance training, or each day the applicant is on jury duty or serving as an election judge;

(5) the applicant has served a nonpayable waiting period of one week that the applicant is otherwise entitled to some amount of unemployment benefits. This clause ~~shall~~ does not apply if the applicant would have been entitled to federal disaster unemployment assistance because of a disaster in Minnesota, but for the applicant's establishment of a benefit account under section 268.07; and

(6) the applicant has been participating in reemployment assistance services, such as job search and resume writing classes, if the applicant has been determined in need of reemployment assistance services by the commissioner, unless ~~there is~~ the applicant has good cause for the applicant's failure failing to participate.

Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.085, subdivision 9, is amended to read:

Subd. 9. **Business owners.** Wage credits from an employer may not be used for unemployment benefit purposes by any applicant who:

(1) individually, jointly, or in combination with the applicant's spouse, parent, or child owns or controls directly or indirectly 25 percent or more interest in the employer, or is the spouse, parent, or minor child of any individual who owns or controls directly or indirectly 25 percent or more interest in the employer; and

(2) is temporarily, seasonally, or indefinitely unemployed and not permanently separated from the employment.

This subdivision is effective when the applicant has been paid four times the applicant's weekly unemployment benefit amount in the current benefit year.

Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.085, subdivision 13c, is amended to read:

Subd. 13c. **Offers of suitable employment.** (a) An applicant ~~shall be~~ is ineligible for all unemployment benefits for eight calendar weeks if the applicant, without good cause:

(1) failed to apply for available, suitable employment of which the applicant was advised by the commissioner or an employer;

(2) failed to accept suitable employment when offered; or

(3) avoided an offer of suitable employment.

(b) "Good cause" is a reason that would cause a reasonable individual who wants suitable employment to fail to apply for, accept, or avoid suitable employment. Good cause includes:

(1) the applicant is employed in other suitable employment;

(2) the applicant is in reemployment assistance training;

(3) the applicant formerly worked for the employer and the loss of employment occurred prior to the commencement of a labor dispute, was permanent or for an indefinite period, and the applicant failed to apply for or accept the employment because a labor dispute was in progress at the establishment; or

(4) the applicant formerly worked for the employer and quit that employment because of a good reason caused by the employer.

(c) This subdivision only applies to offers of suitable employment with a new or a former employer and does not apply to any type of job transfers, position reassignments, or changes in job duties or responsibilities during the course of employment with an employer.

(d) The period of ineligibility under this subdivision ~~and section 268.095 shall begin~~ begins the Sunday of the week the applicant failed to apply for, failed to accept, or avoided suitable employment without good cause.

(e) This subdivision ~~and section 268.095 shall apply~~ applies to offers of suitable employment that occur ~~prior to~~ before the effective date of the benefit account and that occur during the benefit year.

(f) This subdivision ~~and section 268.095 shall only apply~~ applies to offers of suitable employment that are considered covered employment under section 268.035, subdivision 12.

Sec. 16. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.086, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Continued ~~biweekly~~ request for unemployment benefits defined.** A continued ~~biweekly~~ request for unemployment benefits is a certification by an applicant, done on a weekly or biweekly basis as the commissioner designates, that the applicant is unemployed and meets the ongoing eligibility requirements for unemployment benefits under section 268.085 for a specific week or two-week period. A continued ~~biweekly~~ request ~~shall~~ must include information on possible issues of ~~eligibility and disqualification~~ ineligibility in accordance with section 268.101, subdivision 1, paragraph (c).

Sec. 17. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.086, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

Subd. 7. **In-person continued ~~biweekly~~ request for unemployment benefits.** The commissioner may require any applicant who has been designated to make a continued ~~biweekly~~ request for unemployment benefits by ~~telephone,~~ by electronic transmission, or by mail to appear for a personal interview at a place, time, and date designated, during which a written continued ~~biweekly~~ request for unemployment benefits form ~~shall~~ must be completed and submitted by the applicant.

An applicant ~~shall be~~ is ineligible for unemployment benefits for the week or biweekly period covered by a continued ~~biweekly~~ request and the benefit account ~~shall be~~ is considered inactive if the applicant fails, without good cause, to comply with the requirement that the applicant appear for a personal interview and at that time complete and submit a written continued ~~biweekly~~ request form.

Sec. 18. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.105, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **~~Testimonial powers~~ Oaths; subpoenas.** An unemployment law judge ~~may~~ has authority to administer oaths and affirmations, take depositions, and issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents and other personal property considered necessary as evidence in connection with the subject matter of an evidentiary hearing. The subpoenas ~~shall be~~ are enforceable through the district court in ~~the district that the subpoena is issued~~ Ramsey County. Witnesses subpoenaed, other than an involved applicant or involved employer or officers and employees of an involved employer, ~~shall~~ must be paid by the department the same witness fees as in a civil action in district court.

Sec. 19. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.188, is amended to read:

268.188 SUBPOENAS; OATHS.

(a) The commissioner ~~shall have power~~ has authority to administer oaths and affirmations, take depositions, certify to official acts, and issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of individuals and the production of documents and other personal property necessary in connection with the administration of the Minnesota unemployment insurance program.

(b) Individuals subpoenaed, other than applicants or officers and employees of an employer that is the subject of the inquiry, ~~shall be allowed~~ are paid witness fees the same as witness fees in civil actions in district court. The fees need not be paid in advance.

(c) The subpoena ~~shall be~~ is enforceable through the district court in ~~the district that the subpoena is issued~~ Ramsey County.

Sec. 20. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.19, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Use of data.** (a) Except as ~~otherwise~~ provided by this section, data gathered from any person ~~pursuant to~~ under the administration of the Minnesota Unemployment Insurance Law are private data on individuals or nonpublic data not on individuals as defined in section 13.02, subdivisions 9 and 12, and may not be disclosed except pursuant according to a district court order or section 13.05. A subpoena ~~shall~~ is not ~~be~~ considered a district court order. These data may be disseminated to and used by the following agencies without the consent of the subject of the data:

(1) state and federal agencies specifically authorized access to the data by state or federal law;

(2) any agency of any other state or any federal agency charged with the administration of an unemployment insurance program;

(3) any agency responsible for the maintenance of a system of public employment offices for the purpose of assisting individuals in obtaining employment;

(4) the public authority responsible for child support in Minnesota or any other state in accordance with section 256.978;

~~(4)~~ (5) human rights agencies within Minnesota that have enforcement powers;

~~(5)~~ (6) the Department of Revenue only to the extent necessary for its duties under Minnesota laws;

~~(6)~~ (7) public and private agencies responsible for administering publicly financed assistance programs for the purpose of monitoring the eligibility of the program's recipients;

~~(7)~~ (8) the Department of Labor and Industry and the Division of Insurance Fraud Prevention in the Department of Commerce on an interchangeable basis with the department for uses consistent with the administration of their duties under Minnesota law;

~~(8)~~ (9) local and state welfare agencies for monitoring the eligibility of the data subject for assistance programs, or for any employment or training program administered by those agencies, whether alone, in combination with another welfare agency, or in conjunction with the department or to monitor and evaluate the statewide Minnesota family investment program by providing data on recipients and former recipients of food stamps or food support, cash assistance under chapter 256, 256D, 256J, or 256K, child care assistance under chapter 119B, or medical programs under chapter 256B, 256D, or 256L;

~~(9)~~ (10) local and state welfare agencies for the purpose of identifying employment, wages, and other information to assist in the collection of an overpayment debt in an assistance program;

~~(10)~~ (11) local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies for the sole purpose of ascertaining the last known address and employment location of a person an individual who is the subject of a criminal investigation;

~~(11)~~ (12) the federal Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration and Naturalization Service shall have Services has access to data on specific individuals and specific employers provided the specific individual or specific employer is the subject of an investigation by that agency; and

~~(12)~~ (13) the Department of Health solely for the purposes of epidemiologic investigations.

(b) Data on individuals and employers that are collected, maintained, or used by the department in an investigation pursuant to under section 268.182 are confidential as to data on individuals and protected nonpublic data not on individuals as defined in section 13.02, subdivisions 3 and 13, and must not be disclosed except pursuant to under statute or district court order or to a party named in a criminal proceeding, administrative or judicial, for preparation of a defense.

(c) Data gathered by the department pursuant to in the administration of the Minnesota unemployment insurance program must not be made the subject or the basis for any suit in any civil proceedings, administrative or judicial, unless the action is initiated by the department.

Sec. 21. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.194, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Commissioner of finance to be custodian; separate accounts.** (a) The commissioner of finance ~~shall be~~ is the treasurer and custodian of the trust fund, and shall administer the trust fund in accordance with the directions of the commissioner, ~~and issue warrants upon it.~~ The commissioner of finance shall maintain within the trust fund three separate accounts:

- (1) a clearing account;
- (2) an unemployment trust fund account; and
- (3) an unemployment benefit payment account.

All money payable to the trust fund, upon receipt by the commissioner, ~~shall must~~ be forwarded to the commissioner of finance who shall immediately deposit the money in the clearing account. All money in the clearing account, after clearance, ~~shall must~~ be deposited to the credit of Minnesota's account in the federal unemployment trust fund. Tax refunds payable ~~pursuant to~~ under section 268.057 may be paid from the clearing account or the unemployment benefit payment account.

(b) The unemployment benefit payment account ~~shall consist~~ consists of all money requisitioned from Minnesota's account in the federal unemployment trust fund for the payment of unemployment benefits. Money in the clearing and unemployment benefit payment accounts may be deposited by the commissioner of finance, under the direction of the commissioner, in any depository bank that general funds of Minnesota may be deposited, but no public deposit insurance charge or premium ~~shall may~~ be paid out of the trust fund. Money in the clearing and unemployment benefit payment accounts ~~shall must~~ be maintained in separate accounts on the books of the depository bank. This money ~~shall must~~ be secured by the depository bank to the same extent and in the same manner as required by the general depository law of Minnesota.

Sec. 22. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.194, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Exclusive use.** (a) Money requisitioned from Minnesota's account in the federal unemployment trust fund ~~shall must~~ be used exclusively for the payment of unemployment benefits and for tax refunds ~~pursuant to~~ under section 268.057, except that money credited to Minnesota's account ~~pursuant to~~ under United States Code, title 42, section 1103 of the Social Security Act, also known as the Reed Act, may be used for the payment of expenses of administration. The commissioner ~~shall from time to time may~~ requisition from the federal unemployment trust fund the amounts necessary for the payment of unemployment benefits and tax refunds for a reasonable future period. Upon receipt the commissioner of finance shall deposit the money in the unemployment benefit payment account ~~and issue warrants for the payment of unemployment benefits solely from the unemployment benefit payment account.~~

(b) Expenditures of money in the unemployment benefit payment account and tax refunds from the clearing account ~~shall are~~ not be subject to any provisions of law requiring specific appropriations or other formal release by state officers.

~~(c) All warrants issued for the payment of unemployment benefits and tax refunds shall bear the signature of the commissioner of finance and the counter signature of the commissioner.~~

Sec. 23. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.196, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Contingent account.** (a) There is ~~hereby~~ created in the state treasury a special account, to be known as the contingent account, that ~~shall does~~ not lapse nor revert to any other ~~trust fund or account~~. This account ~~shall consist~~ consists of all money appropriated ~~therefor~~ by the legislature, all money ~~in the form of interest and penalties~~ collected pursuant to sections ~~268.057, 268.18, and 268.184~~, all money received in the form of voluntary contributions to this account ~~under this chapter that is required to be placed in this account~~, and any interest earned on the account. All money in this account ~~shall be~~ is supplemental to all federal money available to the commissioner. Money in this account is ~~hereby~~ appropriated to the commissioner and ~~shall be~~ is available to the commissioner for those ~~expenditures the commissioner considers necessary in connection with the~~ administration of the Minnesota unemployment insurance program.

(b) ~~Whenever the commissioner spends money from the contingent account for the administration of the Minnesota unemployment insurance program for which money will later be made available by the federal government, the contingent account shall, when money is available, be reimbursed from the administration account. The commissioner shall certify to the commissioner of finance the amount of the reimbursement and the commissioner of finance shall transfer that amount from the administration account to the contingent account.~~

(c) All money in this account ~~shall must~~ be deposited, administered, and disbursed in the same manner and under the same conditions and requirements as is provided by law for the other special accounts in the state treasury. On June 30 of each year, all amounts in excess of \$300,000 in this account ~~shall must~~ be paid over to the ~~unemployment insurance~~ trust fund.

Sec. 24. **REVISOR'S INSTRUCTION.**

(a) The revisor of statutes shall change the word "attorney" to "attorney licensed to practice law in Minnesota" in Minnesota Statutes, sections 268.067 and 268.105, subdivision 7.

(b) The revisor of statutes shall change the term "common law burden of proof" to "burden of proof" in Minnesota Statutes, section 268.069.

(c) The revisor of statutes shall change the term "continued biweekly request" to "continued request" in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 268.

(d) The revisor of statutes shall change the term "14 days" to "14 calendar days" in Minnesota Statutes, section 268.086.

(e) The revisor of statutes shall change the term "electronic mail address" to "electronic mail address or telephone number" in Minnesota Statutes, section 268.086.

Sec. 25. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Sections 1 to 7 and 9 to 24 are effective September 30, 2007, except for section 24, paragraph (e), which is effective the day following final enactment. Section 8 is effective the day following final enactment.

ARTICLE 4

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES INCORPORATED INTO STATUTES

Section 1. **STATEMENT OF INTENT.**

This article incorporates long-standing administrative rules into the statute. This incorporation is not intended to affect the application or interpretation of any provision.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.035, subdivision 15, is amended to read:

Subd. 15. **Employment.** (a) "Employment" means service performed by:

(1) an individual who is considered an employee under the common law of employer-employee and not considered an independent contractor;

(2) an officer of a corporation;

(3) a member of a limited liability company who is considered an employee under the common law of employer-employee; ~~or~~

(4) product demonstrators in retail stores or other locations to aid in the sale of products. The person that pays the wages is considered the employer; or

(5) an individual who performs services for a person for compensation, as:

(i) an agent-driver or commission-driver engaged in distributing meat products, vegetable products, fruit products, beverages, or laundry or dry cleaning services; or

(ii) a traveling or city salesperson, other than as an agent-driver or commission-driver, engaged full-time in the solicitation on behalf of the 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.

This clause ~~shall apply~~ applies only if the contract of service provides that substantially all of the services are to be performed personally by the individual, and the services are part of a continuing relationship with the person for whom the services are performed, and the individual does not have a substantial investment in facilities used in connection with the performance of the services, other than facilities for transportation.

(b) Employment does not include service as a juror.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.035, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 25b. **Trucking industry/independent contractors.** In the trucking industry, an owner-operator of a vehicle that is licensed and registered as a truck, tractor, or truck-tractor by a governmental motor vehicle regulatory agency is an independent contractor, and is not considered an employee, while performing services in the operation of the truck only if each of the following factors is present:

(1) the individual owns the equipment or holds it under a bona fide lease arrangement;

(2) the individual is responsible for the maintenance of the equipment;

(3) the individual bears the principal burdens of the operating costs, including fuel, repairs, supplies, vehicle insurance, and personal expenses while on the road;

(4) the individual is responsible for supplying the necessary personal services to operate the equipment;

(5) the individual's compensation is based on factors related to the work performed, such as a percentage of any schedule of rates, and not on the basis of the hours or time expended; and

(6) the individual enters into a written contract that specifies the relationship to be that of an independent contractor and not that of an employee.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.035, subdivision 29, is amended to read:

Subd. 29. **Wages.** (a) "Wages" means all compensation for services, including commissions; bonuses, awards, and prizes; severance payments; standby pay; vacation and holiday pay; back pay as of the date of payment; tips and gratuities paid to an employee by a customer of an employer and accounted for by the employee to the employer; sickness and accident disability payments, except as otherwise provided in this subdivision; and the cash value of all compensation in any medium other than cash, housing, utilities, meals, exchanges of services, and any other goods and services provided to compensate for an employee's services, except:

(1) the amount of any payment made to, or on behalf of, an employee under a plan established by an employer that makes provision for employees generally or for a class or classes of employees, including any amount paid by an employer for insurance or annuities, or into a plan, to provide for a payment, on account of (i) retirement or (ii) medical and hospitalization expenses in connection with sickness or accident disability, or (iii) death;

(2) the payment by an employer of the tax imposed upon an employee under United States Code, title 26, section 3101 of the Federal Insurance Contribution Act, with respect to compensation paid to an employee for domestic employment in a private household of the employer or for agricultural employment;

(3) any payment made to, or on behalf of, an employee or beneficiary (i) from or to a trust described in United States Code, title 26, section 401(a) of the federal Internal Revenue Code, that is exempt from tax under section 501(a) at the time of the payment unless the payment is made to an employee of the trust as compensation for services as an employee and not as a beneficiary of the trust, or (ii) under or to an annuity plan that, at the time of the payment, is a plan described in section 403(a);

(4) the value of any special discount or markdown allowed to an employee on goods purchased from or services supplied by the employer where the purchases are optional and do not constitute regular or systematic payment for services;

(5) customary and reasonable directors' fees paid to individuals who are not otherwise employed by the corporation of which they are directors;

(6) the payment to employees for reimbursement of meal expenses when employees are required to perform work after their regular hours;

(7) the payment into a trust or plan for purposes of providing legal or dental services if provided for all employees generally or for a class or classes of employees;

(8) the value of parking facilities provided or paid for by an employer, in whole or in part, if provided for all employees generally or for a class or classes of employees;

(9) royalties to an owner of a franchise, license, copyright, patent, oil, mineral, or other right;

(10) advances or reimbursements for traveling or other bona fide ordinary and necessary expenses incurred or reasonably expected to be incurred in the business of the employer. Traveling and other reimbursed expenses must be identified either by making

separate payments or by specifically indicating the separate amounts where both wages and expense allowances are combined in a single payment;

(11) residual payments to radio, television, and similar artists that accrue after the production of television commercials, musical jingles, spot announcements, radio transcriptions, film sound tracks, and similar activities;

(12) supplemental unemployment benefits paid under a plan established by an employer, that makes provisions for employees generally or for a class or classes of employees for the supplementing of unemployment benefits under the written terms of an agreement, contract, trust arrangement, or other instrument if the plan provides benefits that are only supplemental to, and does not replace or duplicate any state or federal unemployment benefits. The plan must provide that funds are paid solely for the supplementing of state or federal unemployment benefits. The plan must provide that any supplemental benefits are payable only if the applicant has applied for all unemployment benefits available. The plan must provide that supplemental benefits, when combined with the applicant's weekly unemployment benefits available, may not exceed the applicant's regular weekly pay. The plan must not allow the assignment of supplemental benefits or payment upon the employee's withdrawal from the plan, or quitting of employment or the termination of the plan. The plan must not require any consideration from the applicant and must not be designed for the purpose of avoiding the payment of Social Security obligations, or unemployment taxes on money disbursed from the plan;

(13) sickness or accident disability payments made by the employer after the expiration of six calendar months following the last calendar month that the individual worked for the employer;

~~(5)~~ (14) disability payments made under the provisions of any workers' compensation law;

~~(6)~~ (15) sickness or accident disability payments made by a third party payer such as an insurance company; or

~~(7)~~ (16) payments made into a trust fund, or for the purchase of insurance or an annuity, to provide for sickness or accident disability payments to employees—~~pursuant to~~ under a plan or system established by the employer that provides for the employer's employees generally or for a class or classes of employees; or

~~(8)~~ (b) Nothing in this subdivision ~~shall exclude~~ excludes from the term "wages" any payment made under any type of salary reduction agreement, including payments made under a cash or deferred arrangement and cafeteria plan, as defined in United States Code, title 26, sections 401(k) and 125 of the federal Internal Revenue Code, to the extent that the employee has the option to receive the payment in cash.

(c) Wages includes payments made for services as a caretaker. Unless there is a contract or other proof to the contrary, compensation is considered as being equally received by a married couple where the employer makes payment to only one spouse, or by all tenants of a household who perform services where two or more individuals share the same dwelling and the employer makes payment to only one individual.

(d) Wages includes payments made for services by a migrant family. Where services are performed by a married couple or a family and an employer makes payment to only one individual, each worker is considered as having received an equal share of the compensation unless there is a contract or other proof to the contrary.

(e) Wages includes advances or draws against future earnings, when paid, unless the payments are designated as a loan or return of capital on the books of the employer at the time of payment.

(f) Wages includes payments made by a subchapter "S" corporation, as organized under the Internal Revenue Code, to or on behalf of officers and shareholders that are reasonable compensation for services performed for the corporation.

For a subchapter "S" corporation, wages does not include:

(1) a loan for business purposes to an officer or shareholder evidenced by a promissory note signed by an officer before the payment of the loan proceeds and recorded on the books and records of the corporation as a loan to an officer or shareholder;

(2) a repayment of a loan or payment of interest on a loan made by an officer to the corporation and recorded on the books and records of the corporation as a liability;

(3) a reimbursement of reasonable corporation expenses incurred by an officer and documented by a written expense voucher and recorded on the books and records of the corporation as corporate expenses; and

(4) a reasonable lease or rental payment to an officer who owns property that is leased or rented to the corporation.

Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.042, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Employer registration.** (a) Each employer ~~shall~~ must, upon or before the submission of its first wage detail report under section 268.044, register with the commissioner for a tax account or a reimbursable account, by electronic transmission in a format prescribed by the commissioner. The employer must provide all required information for registration, including the actual physical street and city address of the employer.

(b) Within 30 calendar days, each employer must notify the commissioner by electronic transmission, in a format prescribed, of a change in legal entity, of the transfer, sale, or acquisition of a business conducted in Minnesota, in whole or in part, if the transaction results in the creation of a new or different employer or affects the establishment of employer accounts, the assignment of tax rates, or the transfer of experience rating history.

(c) Except as provided in subdivision 3, any person that is or becomes an employer subject to the Minnesota Unemployment Insurance Law because of the application of section 268.035, subdivision 20, clause (14), (17), or (33), within any calendar year ~~shall~~ be is considered to be subject to this chapter the entire calendar year.

~~(c) Upon~~ (d) Within 30 calendar days of the termination of business, an employer that has been assigned a tax account or reimbursable account shall must notify the commissioner by electronic transmission, in a format prescribed by the commissioner, that the employer no longer has employees and does not intend or expect to pay wages to any employees in the next calendar year and into the foreseeable future. Upon such notification, the commissioner shall not require the employer is no longer required to file wage detail reports under section 268.044, subdivision 1, paragraph (d).

(e) An employer that has terminated business regains its previous tax account under section 268.045, with the experience rating history of that account, if the employer again commences business and if:

(1) less than 14 calendar quarters have elapsed in which no wages were paid for covered employment;

(2) the experience rating history regained contains taxable wages; and

(3) the experience rating history has not been transferred to a successor under section 268.051, subdivision 4.

Sec. 6. **REPEALER.**

Minnesota Rules, parts 3315.0210; 3315.0220; 3315.0515; 3315.0520; 3315.0525; 3315.0530, subparts 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6; 3315.0540; 3315.0550; 3315.0910, subparts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8; 3315.1005, subparts 1 and 3; 3315.1315, subpart 4; 3315.2010; and 3315.2810, subparts 2 and 4, are repealed.

Sec. 7. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Sections 1 to 6 are effective September 30, 2007.

ARTICLE 5
TERMINOLOGY CHANGE

Section 1. **STATEMENT OF INTENT.**

This article substitutes the term "disqualify" or similar terms with the term "ineligible" or similar terms in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 268. Both terms are currently used throughout the unemployment insurance law. This substitution is not intended as a substantive change. It is done for simplification, to achieve consistency and avoid confusion, as the terms have the same common meaning and the same effect under the statute.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.035, subdivision 12, is amended to read:

Subd. 12. **Covered employment.** "Covered employment" means the following unless excluded as "noncovered employment" under subdivision 20:

(1) an employee's entire employment during the calendar quarter if:

(i) the employment is performed entirely in Minnesota;

(ii) the employment is performed primarily in Minnesota, and the employment performed outside Minnesota is incidental to the employment in Minnesota; or

(iii) the employment is not performed primarily in any one state but some of the employment is performed in Minnesota and the base of operations or the place from which the employment is directed or controlled is in Minnesota; or the base of operations or place from which the employment is directed or controlled is not in any state ~~in which~~ where part of the employment is performed, but the employee's residence is in Minnesota;

(2) an employee's employment during the calendar quarter wherever performed within the United States or Canada, if:

(i) the employment is not covered under the unemployment insurance program of any other state or Canada; and

(ii) the place from which the employment is directed or controlled is in Minnesota;

(3) the employment during the calendar quarter of an employee who is a citizen of the United States, performed outside the United States, except in Canada, in the employ of an American employer if:

(i) the employer's principal place of business in the United States is located in Minnesota;

(ii) the employer has no place of business in the United States, but the employer is an individual who is a resident of Minnesota, or the employer is a corporation that is organized under the laws of Minnesota, or the employer is a partnership or a trust and the number of partners or trustees who are residents of Minnesota is greater than the number who are residents of any one other state;

(iii) none of the criteria of subclauses (i) and (ii) is met but the employer has elected coverage in Minnesota, or the employer having failed to elect coverage in any state, an applicant has made an application for unemployment benefits under section 268.07, based on the employment;

(iv) an "American employer," for the purposes of this subdivision, means an individual who is a resident of the United States, or a partnership if two-thirds or more of the partners are residents of the United States, or a trust, if all of the trustees are residents of the United States, or a corporation organized under the laws of the United States, or of any state; or

(v) as used in this subdivision, the term "United States" includes the states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands;

(4) all employment during the calendar quarter performed by an officer or member of the crew of an American vessel on or in connection with the vessel, if the operating office from which the operations of the vessel operating on navigable waters within, or within and without, the United States are ordinarily and regularly supervised, managed, directed, and controlled is in Minnesota; and

(5) for the purposes of satisfying ~~disqualifications~~ the period of ineligibility under section 268.095, subdivision 10, "covered employment" ~~shall include~~ includes covered employment under an unemployment insurance program of any other state or employment covered under an unemployment insurance program established by an act of Congress.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.069, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Requirements.** The commissioner shall pay unemployment benefits from the trust fund to an applicant who has met each of the following requirements:

(1) the applicant has filed an application for unemployment benefits and established a benefit account in accordance with section 268.07;

(2) the applicant ~~is~~ has not ~~subject to a disqualification from~~ been held ineligible for unemployment benefits under section 268.095 because of a quit or discharge;

(3) the applicant has met all of the ongoing eligibility requirements under sections 268.085 and 268.086;

(4) the applicant does not have an outstanding overpayment of unemployment benefits, including any penalties or interest; and

(5) the applicant ~~is~~ has not been held ineligible for unemployment benefits under section 268.182 because of a false representation or concealment of facts.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.095, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **Discharge.** An applicant who was discharged from employment by an employer ~~shall be disqualified from~~ is ineligible for all unemployment benefits according to subdivision 10 only if:

(1) the applicant was discharged because of employment misconduct as defined in subdivision 6; or

(2) the applicant was discharged because of aggravated employment misconduct as defined in subdivision 6a.

Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.095, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

Subd. 7. **Act or omissions after separation.** An applicant ~~shall~~ may not be ~~disqualified from~~ held ineligible for unemployment benefits under ~~section 268.085, subdivision 13c, and~~ this section for any acts or omissions occurring after the applicant's separation from employment with the employer. A layoff ~~due to~~ because of lack of work is considered a separation from employment.

Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.095, subdivision 10, is amended to read:

Subd. 10. **Disqualification Ineligibility duration.** (a) ~~A disqualification Ineligibility~~ from the payment of all unemployment benefits under subdivisions 1 and 4 ~~shall be~~ is for the duration of the applicant's unemployment and until the end of the calendar week that the applicant had total earnings in subsequent covered employment of eight times the applicant's weekly unemployment benefit amount.

(b) ~~Any disqualification Ineligibility~~ imposed under subdivisions 1 and 4 ~~shall begin~~ begins on the Sunday of the week that the applicant became separated from employment.

(c) In addition to paragraph (a), if the applicant was discharged from employment because of aggravated employment misconduct, wage credits from that employment ~~shall be~~ are canceled.

Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.101, is amended to read:

268.101 DETERMINATIONS ON ISSUES OF ~~DISQUALIFICATION AND ELIGIBILITY~~ INELIGIBILITY.

Subdivision 1. **Notification.** (a) In an application for unemployment benefits, each applicant ~~shall~~ must report the name and the reason for no longer working for the applicant's most recent employer, as well as the names of all employers and the reasons for no longer working for all employers during the six calendar months ~~prior to~~ before the date of the application. If the reason reported for no longer working for any of those employers is other than a layoff ~~due to~~ because of lack of work, that ~~shall raise~~ raises an issue of ~~disqualification ineligibility~~ that the department ~~shall~~ must determine. An applicant ~~shall~~ must report any offers of employment refused during the eight calendar weeks ~~prior to~~ before the date of the application for unemployment benefits and the name of the employer that made the offer. An applicant's failure to report the name of an employer, or giving an incorrect reason for no longer working for an employer, or failing to disclose an offer of employment that was refused, ~~shall be considered~~ is a violation of section 268.182, subdivision 2.

In an application, the applicant ~~shall~~ must also provide all information necessary to determine the applicant's eligibility for unemployment benefits under ~~section 268.085~~ this chapter. If the applicant fails or refuses to provide information necessary to determine the applicant's eligibility for unemployment benefits ~~under section 268.085~~, the applicant ~~shall be~~ is ineligible for unemployment benefits under section 268.085, subdivision 2, until the applicant provides this required information.

(b) Upon establishment of a benefit account under section 268.07, subdivision 2, the commissioner shall notify, by mail or electronic transmission, all employers the applicant was required to report on the application and all base period employers and determined successors to those employers under section 268.051, subdivision 4, in order to provide the employer an opportunity to raise, in a manner and format prescribed by the commissioner, any issue of ~~disqualification or any issue of eligibility~~ ineligibility. An employer ~~shall~~ must be informed of the effect that failure to raise an issue of ~~disqualification~~ ineligibility as a result of a quit or discharge of the applicant, within ten calendar days after sending of the notice, as provided for under subdivision 2, paragraph (b), may have on the employer under section 268.047.

(c) Each applicant ~~shall~~ must report any employment, and loss of employment, and offers of employment refused, during those weeks the applicant filed continued ~~biweekly~~ requests for unemployment benefits ~~pursuant to~~ under section 268.086. Each applicant who stops filing continued ~~biweekly~~ requests during the benefit year and later begins filing continued ~~biweekly~~ requests during that same benefit year ~~shall~~ must report the name of any employer the applicant worked for during the period between the filing of continued ~~biweekly~~ requests and the reason the applicant stopped working for the employer. The applicant ~~shall~~ must report any offers of employment refused during the period between the filing of continued ~~biweekly~~ requests for unemployment benefits. Those employers from which the applicant has reported a loss of employment ~~pursuant to~~ under this paragraph ~~shall~~ must be notified by mail or electronic transmission and provided an opportunity to raise, in a manner prescribed by the commissioner, any issue of ~~disqualification or any issue of eligibility~~ ineligibility. An employer ~~shall~~ must be informed of the effect that failure to raise an issue of ineligibility as a result of a quit or a discharge of the applicant may have on the employer under section 268.047.

(d) The purpose for requiring the applicant to report the name of employers and the reason for no longer working for those employers, or offers of employment refused, under paragraphs (a) and (c) is for the commissioner to obtain information from an applicant raising all issues that may ~~have the potential of disqualifying result in~~ the applicant ~~from being ineligible for~~ unemployment benefits under section 268.095, because of a quit or discharge, or the applicant being ineligible for unemployment benefits under section 268.085, subdivision 13c. If the reason given by the applicant for no longer working for an employer is other than a layoff ~~due to~~ because of lack of work, that ~~shall raise~~ raises an issue of ~~disqualification~~ ineligibility and the applicant ~~shall be~~ is required, as part of the determination process under subdivision 2, paragraph (a), to state all the facts about the cause for no longer working for the employer, if known. If the applicant fails or refuses to provide any required information, the applicant ~~shall be~~ is ineligible for unemployment benefits under section 268.085, subdivision 2, until the applicant provides this required information.

Subd. 2. **Disqualification Determination.** (a) The commissioner shall determine any issue of ~~disqualification~~ ineligibility raised by information required from an applicant under subdivision 1, paragraph (a) or (c), and send to the applicant and any involved

employer, by mail or electronic transmission, a determination of ~~disqualification eligibility~~ or a determination of ~~nondisqualification ineligibility~~, as is appropriate. The determination shall on an issue of ineligibility as a result of a quit or a discharge of the applicant must state the effect on the employer under section 268.047. A determination ~~shall~~ must be made ~~pursuant to~~ in accordance with this paragraph even if a notified employer has not raised the issue of ~~disqualification ineligibility~~.

(b) The commissioner shall determine any issue of ~~disqualification ineligibility~~ raised by an employer and send to the applicant and that employer, by mail or electronic transmission, a determination of ~~disqualification eligibility~~ or a determination of ~~nondisqualification ineligibility~~ as is appropriate. The determination shall on an issue of ineligibility as a result of a quit or discharge of the applicant must state the effect on the employer under section 268.047.

If a base period employer:

(1) was not the applicant's most recent employer ~~prior to~~ before the application for unemployment benefits;

(2) did not employ the applicant during the six calendar months ~~prior to~~ before the application for unemployment benefits; and

(3) did not raise an issue of ~~disqualification ineligibility~~ as a result of a quit or discharge of the applicant within ten calendar days of notification under subdivision 1, paragraph (b);

then any exception under section 268.047, subdivisions 2 and 3, ~~shall begin~~ begins the Sunday two weeks following the week that the issue of ~~disqualification ineligibility~~ as a result of a quit or discharge of the applicant was raised by the employer.

A communication from an employer must specifically set out why the applicant should be determined ineligible for unemployment benefits for that communication to be considered to have raised an issue of ineligibility for purposes of this section. A statement of "protest" or a similar term without more information does not constitute raising an issue of ineligibility for purposes of this section.

~~(c) If any time within 24 months from the establishment of a benefit account the commissioner finds that an applicant failed to report any employment, or loss of employment that was required to be provided by the applicant under this section, the commissioner shall determine any issue of disqualification on that loss of employment and send to the applicant and involved employer, by mail or electronic transmission, a determination of disqualification or a determination of nondisqualification, as is appropriate. The determination shall state the effect on the employer under section 268.047.~~

~~This paragraph shall not prevent the imposition of any penalty under section 268.18, subdivision 2, or 268.182.~~

~~(d)~~ (c) An issue of ~~disqualification shall be~~ ineligibility is determined based upon that information required of an applicant, any information that may be obtained from an applicant or employer, and information from any other source, without regard to any common-law burden of proof.

~~(e) A determination of disqualification or a determination of nondisqualification shall be final unless an appeal is filed by the applicant or notified employer within 30 calendar~~

~~days after sending. The determination shall contain a prominent statement indicating the consequences of not appealing. Proceedings on the appeal shall be conducted in accordance with section 268.105.~~

~~(f) An issue of disqualification for purposes of this section shall include any reason for no longer working for an employer other than a layoff due to lack of work, any question of a disqualification from unemployment benefits under section 268.095, any question of an exception to disqualification under section 268.095, any question of effect on an employer under section 268.047, and any question of an otherwise imposed disqualification that an applicant has satisfied under section 268.095, subdivision 10.~~

~~(g) (d) Regardless of the requirements of this subdivision, the commissioner is not required to send to an applicant a copy of the determination where the applicant has satisfied any otherwise potential disqualification period of ineligibility because of a quit or a discharge under section 268.095, subdivision 10.~~

~~(e) The commissioner may issue a determination on an issue of ineligibility at any time within 24 months from the establishment of a benefit account based upon information from any source, even if the issue of ineligibility was not raised by the applicant or an employer.~~

~~This paragraph does not prevent the imposition of a penalty under section 268.18, subdivision 2, or 268.182.~~

~~(f) A determination of eligibility or determination of ineligibility is final unless an appeal is filed by the applicant or notified employer within 20 calendar days after sending. The determination must contain a prominent statement indicating the consequences of not appealing. Proceedings on the appeal are conducted in accordance with section 268.105.~~

~~(g) An issue of ineligibility required to be determined under this section includes any question regarding the denial or allowing of unemployment benefits under this chapter except for issues under section 268.07. An issue of ineligibility for purposes of this section includes any question of effect on an employer under section 268.047.~~

~~(h) Except for issues of ineligibility as a result of a quit or discharge of the applicant, the employer will be (1) sent a copy of the determination of eligibility or a determination of ineligibility, or (2) considered an involved employer for purposes of an appeal under section 268.105, only if the employer raised the issue of ineligibility.~~

~~Subd. 3. **Eligibility determination.** (a) The commissioner shall determine any issue of eligibility raised by an employer, and send to the applicant and that employer, by mail or electronic transmission, a determination of eligibility or a determination of ineligibility, as is appropriate.~~

~~(b) The commissioner shall determine any issue of eligibility raised by information obtained from an applicant and send to the applicant, by mail or electronic transmission, a determination of eligibility or a determination of ineligibility, as is appropriate. A determination shall be made pursuant to this paragraph even if a notified employer has not raised the issue of eligibility.~~

~~(c) If any time within 24 months from the establishment of a benefit account the commissioner finds the applicant failed to provide, on an application for unemployment benefits or on a continued biweekly request for unemployment benefits, requested information on an issue of eligibility, the commissioner shall determine the issue of~~

~~eligibility and send to the applicant, by mail or electronic transmission, a determination of eligibility or a determination of ineligibility, as is appropriate.~~

~~This paragraph shall not prevent the imposition of a penalty under section 268.18, subdivision 2, or 268.182.~~

~~(d) A determination of eligibility or determination of ineligibility shall be final unless an appeal is filed by the applicant or notified employer within 30 calendar days after sending. The determination shall contain a prominent statement indicating the consequences of not appealing. Proceedings on the appeal shall be conducted in accordance with section 268.105.~~

~~(e) An issue of eligibility for purposes of this section shall include any question regarding the denial or allowing of unemployment benefits under sections 268.085, 268.086, 268.115, 268.125, 268.135, and 268.155.~~

~~(f) Only if an employer raised the issue of eligibility shall the employer be: (1) sent the determination of eligibility or a determination of ineligibility, or (2) considered an involved employer for purposes of an appeal under section 268.105.~~

Subd. 3a. **Direct hearing.** Regardless of any provision of the Minnesota Unemployment Insurance Law, the commissioner or an unemployment law judge may, ~~prior to~~ before a determination being made under this chapter, refer ~~any issue of disqualification,~~ any issue of eligibility ~~ineligibility,~~ or any other issue under this chapter, directly for hearing in accordance with section 268.105, subdivision 1. The status of the issue ~~shall be~~ is the same as if a determination had been made and an appeal filed.

Subd. 4. **Amended determination.** Unless an appeal has been filed, the commissioner, on the commissioner's own motion, may reconsider a determination ~~of disqualification or nondisqualification or a determination~~ of eligibility or ineligibility that has not become final and issue an amended determination. Any amended determination ~~shall must~~ be sent to the applicant and any involved employer by mail or electronic transmission. Any amended determination ~~shall be~~ is final unless an appeal is filed by the applicant or notified employer within ~~30~~ 20 calendar days after sending. Proceedings on the appeal ~~shall be~~ are conducted in accordance with section 268.105.

Subd. 5. **Unemployment benefit payment.** If a determination or amended determination allows unemployment benefits to an applicant, the unemployment benefits ~~shall must~~ be paid regardless of any appeal period or any appeal having been filed.

Subd. 6. **Overpayment.** A determination or amended determination that holds an applicant ~~disqualified or~~ ineligible for unemployment benefits for periods an applicant has been paid benefits is considered an overpayment of those unemployment benefits under section 268.18, subdivision 1.

Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.125, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Eligibility conditions.** An applicant is eligible to receive additional unemployment benefits for any week during the applicant's benefit year if:

(1) the applicant was laid off from employment as a result of a reduction under subdivision 1 or was laid off ~~due to~~ because of lack of work from that employer during the three-month period before, or the three-month period after, the month of the reduction under subdivision 1;

(2) the applicant meets the eligibility requirements under section 268.085;

(3) the applicant is not ~~subject to a disqualification~~ ineligible under section 268.095 because of a quit or a discharge; ~~for the purpose of this subdivision, the disqualifying conditions in section 268.095, and the requalifying requirements, apply to the receipt of additional unemployment benefits;~~

(4) the applicant has exhausted regular unemployment benefits under section 268.07, is not entitled to receive extended unemployment benefits under section 268.115, and is not entitled to receive unemployment benefits under any other state or federal law for that week; and

(5) a majority of the applicant's wage credits were from the employer that had a reduction in operations under subdivision 1.

Sec. 9. REVISOR'S INSTRUCTION.

In the headnote of Minnesota Statutes, section 268.095, the revisor of statutes shall change the term "DISQUALIFICATION" to "INELIGIBILITY."

Sec. 10. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This article applies to all department determinations, appeal decisions, and other actions done on or after September 30, 2007.

**ARTICLE 6
STYLE CHANGES**

Section 1. STATEMENT OF INTENT.

This article makes style changes that conform to preferred modern statutory drafting conventions for the use of clear, concise, and plain language.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.001, is amended to read:

268.001 CITATION; MINNESOTA UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE LAW.

This chapter ~~shall~~ will be known and may be cited as the "Minnesota Unemployment Insurance Law."

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.03, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Statement.** The public purpose of this chapter is: Economic insecurity ~~due to~~ because of involuntary unemployment of workers in Minnesota is a subject of general concern that requires appropriate action by the legislature. The public good ~~will be~~ is promoted by providing workers who are unemployed through no fault of their own a temporary partial wage replacement to assist the unemployed worker to become reemployed. This program ~~will be known as~~ is the "Minnesota unemployment insurance program."

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.03, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Standard of proof.** All issues of fact under the Minnesota Unemployment Insurance Law ~~shall be~~ are determined by a preponderance of the evidence. Preponderance of the evidence means evidence in substantiation of a fact that, when weighed against the evidence opposing the fact, is more convincing and has a greater probability of truth.

Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.035, subdivision 9, is amended to read:

Subd. 9. **Construction/independent contractor.** A worker doing commercial or residential building construction or improvement, in the public or private sector, performing services in the course of the trade, business, profession, or occupation of the employer, ~~shall be~~ is considered an employee and not an "independent contractor" unless the worker meets all the following conditions:

(1) maintains a separate business with the independent contractor's own office, equipment, materials, and other facilities;

(2) holds or has applied for a federal employer identification number or has filed business or self-employment income tax returns with the federal Internal Revenue Service based on that work or service in the previous year;

(3) operates under contracts to perform specific services or work for specific amounts of money under which the independent contractor controls the means of performing the services or work;

(4) incurs the main expenses related to the service or work that the independent contractor performs under contract;

(5) is responsible for the satisfactory completion of work or services that the independent contractor contracts to perform and is liable for a failure to complete the work or service;

(6) receives compensation for work or service performed under a contract on a commission or per job or competitive bid basis and not on any other basis;

(7) may realize a profit or suffer a loss under contracts to perform work or service;

(8) has continuing or recurring business liabilities or obligations; and

(9) the success or failure of the independent contractor's business depends on the relationship of business receipts to expenditures.

Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.035, subdivision 10, is amended to read:

Subd. 10. **Corporation.** "Corporation" includes associations, joint-stock companies, and insurance companies. This definition ~~shall be~~ is not be exclusive.

Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.035, subdivision 11, is amended to read:

Subd. 11. **Covered agricultural employment.** "Covered agricultural employment" means agricultural employment where:

(1) The employment is performed for a person who:

(i) during any calendar quarter in either the current or the prior calendar year paid wages of \$20,000 or more to employees in agricultural employment; or

(ii) for some portion of a day in each of 20 different calendar weeks, whether or not the weeks were consecutive, in either the current or prior calendar year employed in agricultural employment four or more employees, regardless of whether they were employed at the same time.

(2) Any employee who is a member of a crew furnished by a crew leader to be employed in agricultural employment for any other person ~~shall be~~ is treated as an employee of the crew leader:

(i) if the crew leader holds a valid certificate of registration under United States Code, title 29, section 1802, the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act; or substantially all of the members of the crew operate or maintain tractors, mechanized harvesting or crop dusting equipment, or any other mechanized equipment, that is provided by the crew leader; and

(ii) if the employee is not an employee of another person.

(3) Any employee who is furnished by a crew leader to be employed in agricultural employment for any other person and who is not treated as an employee of the crew leader under clause (2):

(i) the other person and not the crew leader ~~shall be~~ is treated as the employer of the employee; and

(ii) the other person ~~shall be~~ is treated as having paid wages to the employee in an amount equal to the amount of wages paid to the employee by the crew leader (either on the crew leader's behalf or on behalf of the other person) for the agricultural employment performed for the other person.

(4) The term "crew leader" means an individual who:

(i) furnishes employees to be employed in agricultural employment for any other person;

(ii) pays (either on the crew leader's own behalf or on behalf of the other person) the employees furnished by the crew leader for the agricultural employment performed by them; and

(iii) has not entered into a written agreement with the other person under which the furnished employee is designated as an employee of the other person.

(5) Employment of an officer or shareholder of a family farm corporation ~~shall be~~ is excluded from covered agricultural employment unless the corporation is an employer under United States Code, title 26, section 3306(a)(2) of the Federal Unemployment Tax Act.

(6) Employment of an individual 16 years of age or under ~~shall be~~ is excluded from covered agricultural employment unless the employer is an employer under United States Code, title 26, section 3306(a)(2) of the Federal Unemployment Tax Act.

Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.035, subdivision 13, is amended to read:

Subd. 13. **Employee.** "Employee" means:

(1) every individual who is performing or has performed services for an employer in employment; or

(2) each individual employed to perform or assist in performing the work of any agent or employee of the employer ~~shall be~~ is considered to be an employee of that employer whether the individual was hired or paid directly by that employer or by the agent or employee, provided the employer had actual or constructive knowledge of the work.

Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.035, subdivision 20, is amended to read:

Subd. 20. **Noncovered employment.** "Noncovered employment" means:

(1) employment for the United States government or an instrumentality thereof, including military service;

(2) employment for a state, other than Minnesota, or a political subdivision or instrumentality thereof;

(3) employment for a foreign government;

(4) employment for an instrumentality wholly owned by a foreign government, if the employment is of a character similar to that performed in foreign countries by employees of the United States government or an instrumentality thereof and the United States Secretary of State has certified that the foreign government grants an equivalent exemption to similar employment performed in the foreign country by employees of the United States government and instrumentalities thereof;

(5) employment covered under United States Code, title 45, section 351, the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act;

(6) employment covered by a reciprocal arrangement between the commissioner and another state or the federal government ~~which~~ that provides that all employment performed by an individual for an employer during the period covered by the reciprocal arrangement is considered performed entirely within another state;

(7) employment for a church or convention or association of churches, or an organization operated primarily for religious purposes that is operated, supervised, controlled, or principally supported by a church or convention or association of churches described in United States Code, title 26, section 501(c)(3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code and exempt from income tax under section 501(a);

(8) employment of a duly ordained or licensed minister of a church in the exercise of a ministry or by a member of a religious order in the exercise of duties required by the order, for Minnesota or a political subdivision or an organization described in United States Code, title 26, section 501(c)(3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code and exempt from income tax under section 501(a);

(9) employment of an individual receiving rehabilitation of "sheltered" work 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 a program providing "sheltered" work for individuals who because of an impaired physical or mental capacity cannot be readily absorbed in the competitive labor market. This clause applies only to services performed for Minnesota or a political subdivision or an organization described in United States Code, title 26, section 501(c)(3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code and exempt from income tax under section 501(a) in a facility certified by the Rehabilitation Services Branch of the department or in a day training or habilitation program licensed by the Department of Human Services;

(10) employment of an individual receiving work relief or work training 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. This clause applies only to employment for Minnesota or a political subdivision or an organization described in United States Code, title 26, section 501(c)(3) of the federal

Internal Revenue Code and exempt from income tax under section 501(a). This clause ~~shall~~ does not apply to programs that require unemployment benefit coverage for the participants;

(11) employment for Minnesota or a political subdivision as an elected official, a member of a legislative body, or a member of the judiciary;

(12) employment as a member of the Minnesota National Guard or Air National Guard;

(13) employment for Minnesota, a political subdivision, or instrumentality thereof, as an employee serving only on a temporary basis in case of fire, flood, tornado, or similar emergency;

(14) employment as an election official or election worker for Minnesota or a political subdivision, but only if the compensation for that employment was less than \$1,000 in a calendar year;

(15) employment for Minnesota that is a major policy making or advisory position in the unclassified service, including those positions established ~~pursuant to~~ under section 43A.08, subdivision 1a;

(16) employment for a political subdivision of Minnesota that is a nontenured major policy making or advisory position;

(17) domestic employment in a private household, local college club, or local chapter of a college fraternity or sorority performed for a person, only if the wages paid in any calendar quarter in either the current or ~~preceding~~ prior calendar year to all individuals in domestic employment totaled less than \$1,000.

"Domestic employment" includes all service in the operation and maintenance of a private household, for a local college club, or local chapter of a college fraternity or sorority as distinguished from service as an employee in the pursuit of an employer's trade or business;

(18) employment of an individual by a son, daughter, or spouse, and employment of a child under the age of 18 by the child's father or mother;

(19) employment of an inmate of a custodial or penal institution;

(20) employment for a school, college, or university by a student who is enrolled and is regularly attending classes at the school, college, or university;

(21) employment of an individual who is enrolled as a student in a full-time program at a nonprofit or public educational institution that maintains a regular faculty and curriculum and has a regularly organized body of students in attendance at the place where its educational activities are carried on, taken for credit at the institution, that combines academic instruction with work experience, if the employment is an integral part of the program, and the institution has so certified to the employer, except that this clause ~~shall~~ does not apply to employment in a program established for or on behalf of an employer or group of employers;

(22) employment of university, college, or professional school students in an internship or other training program with the city of St. Paul or the city of Minneapolis ~~pursuant to~~ under Laws 1990, chapter 570, article 6, section 3;

(23) employment for a hospital by a patient of the hospital. "Hospital" means an institution that has been licensed by the Department of Health as a hospital;

(24) employment as a student nurse for a hospital or a nurses' training school by an individual who is enrolled and is regularly attending classes in an accredited nurses' training school;

(25) employment as an intern for a hospital by an individual who has completed a four-year course in an accredited medical school;

(26) employment as an insurance salesperson, by other than a corporate officer, if all the wages from the employment is solely by way of commission. The word "insurance" ~~shall include~~ includes an annuity and an optional annuity;

(27) employment as an officer of a township mutual insurance company or farmer's mutual insurance company operating ~~pursuant to~~ under chapter 67A;

(28) employment of a corporate officer, if the officer owns 25 percent or more of the employer corporation, and employment of a member of a limited liability company, if the member owns 25 percent or more of the employer limited liability company;

(29) employment as a real estate salesperson, by other than a corporate officer, if all the wages from the employment is solely by way of commission;

(30) employment as a direct seller as defined in United States Code, title 26, section 3508;

(31) employment of an individual under the age of 18 in the delivery or distribution of newspapers or shopping news, not including delivery or distribution to any point for subsequent delivery or distribution;

(32) casual employment performed for an individual, other than domestic employment under clause (17), that does not promote or advance that employer's trade or business;

(33) employment in "agricultural employment" unless considered "covered agricultural employment" under subdivision 11; or

(34) if employment during one-half or more of any pay period was covered employment, all the employment for the pay period ~~shall be~~ is considered covered employment; but if during more than one-half of any pay period the employment was noncovered employment, then all of the employment for the pay period ~~shall be~~ is considered noncovered employment. "Pay period" means a period of not more than a calendar month for which a payment or compensation is ordinarily made to the employee by the employer.

Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.035, subdivision 21a, is amended to read:

Subd. 21a. **Reemployment assistance training.** (a) An applicant is in "reemployment assistance training" when:

(1) reasonable and suitable employment for the applicant does not exist in the labor market area and it is necessary that the applicant receive training in order to obtain suitable employment;

(2) the curriculum, facilities, staff, and other essentials are adequate to achieve the training objective;

(3) the training is vocational in nature or short term academic training vocationally directed to an occupation or skill for which there are reasonable employment opportunities available to the applicant;

(4) the training course is considered full time by the training provider; and

(5) the applicant is making satisfactory progress in the training.

(b) Full-time training provided through the dislocated worker program, the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, or the North American Free Trade Agreement ~~shall be~~ is considered "reemployment assistance training," if that training course is in accordance with the requirements of that program.

(c) An applicant ~~will be~~ is considered in reemployment assistance training only if the training course has actually started or is scheduled to start within 30 calendar days.

Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.035, subdivision 23a, is amended to read:

Subd. 23a. **Suitable employment.** (a) Suitable employment means employment in the applicant's labor market area that is reasonably related to the applicant's qualifications. In determining whether any employment is suitable for an applicant, the degree of risk involved to the health and safety, physical fitness, prior training, experience, length of unemployment, prospects for securing employment in the applicant's customary occupation, and the distance of the employment from the applicant's residence ~~shall be~~ is considered.

(b) In determining what is suitable employment, primary consideration ~~shall be~~ is given to the temporary or permanent nature of the applicant's separation from employment and whether the applicant has favorable prospects of finding employment in the applicant's usual or customary occupation at the applicant's past wage level within a reasonable period of time.

If prospects are unfavorable, employment at lower skill or wage levels is suitable if the applicant is reasonably suited for the employment considering the applicant's education, training, work experience, and current physical and mental ability.

The total compensation must be considered, including the wage rate, hours of employment, method of payment, overtime practices, bonuses, incentive payments, and fringe benefits.

(c) When potential employment is at a rate of pay lower than the applicant's former rate, consideration must be given to the length of the applicant's unemployment and the proportion of difference in the rates. Employment that may not be suitable because of lower wages during the early weeks of the applicant's unemployment may become suitable as the duration of unemployment lengthens.

(d) For an applicant seasonally unemployed, suitable employment includes temporary work in a lower skilled occupation that pays average gross weekly wages equal to or more than 150 percent of the applicant's weekly unemployment benefit amount.

(e) If a majority of the applicant's wage credits were earned from part-time employment, part-time employment in a position with comparable skills and comparable hours that pays average gross weekly wages equal to or more than 150 percent of

the applicant's weekly unemployment benefit amount ~~shall be~~ is considered suitable employment.

(f) To determine suitability of employment in terms of shifts, the arrangement of hours in addition to the total number of hours is to be considered. Employment on a second, third, rotating, or split shift is suitable employment if it is customary in the occupation in the labor market area.

(g) Employment ~~shall~~ is not ~~be~~ considered suitable if:

(1) the position offered is vacant because of a labor dispute;

(2) the wages, hours, or other conditions of employment are substantially less favorable than those prevailing for similar employment in the labor market area; or

(3) as a condition of becoming employed, the applicant would be required to join a company union or to resign from or refrain from joining any bona fide labor organization.

Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.035, subdivision 26, is amended to read:

Subd. 26. **Unemployed.** An applicant ~~shall be~~ is considered "unemployed" (1) in any week that the applicant performs less than 32 hours of service in employment, covered employment, noncovered employment, self-employment, or volunteer work; and (2) any earnings with respect to that week are less than the applicant's weekly unemployment benefit amount.

Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.035, subdivision 30, is amended to read:

Subd. 30. **Wages paid.** (a) "Wages paid" means the amount of wages that have been actually paid or that have been credited to or set apart so that payment and disposition is under the control of the employee. Wage payments delayed beyond the regularly scheduled pay date are considered "wages paid" on the missed pay date. Back pay ~~shall be~~ is considered "wages paid" on the date of actual payment. Any wages earned but not paid with no scheduled date of payment ~~shall be~~ is considered "wages paid" on the last day of employment.

(b) Wages paid ~~shall~~ does not include wages earned but not paid except as provided for in this subdivision.

Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.042, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Election to have noncovered employment considered covered employment.** (a) Any employer that has employment performed for it that is noncovered employment under section 268.035, subdivision 20, may file with the commissioner, by electronic transmission in a format prescribed by the commissioner, an election that all ~~such~~ employment, in one or more distinct establishments or places of business, ~~shall be~~ is considered covered employment for not less than two calendar years. The commissioner ~~shall have~~ has discretion on the approval of any election. Upon the approval of the commissioner, sent by mail or electronic transmission, the employment ~~shall constitute~~ constitutes covered employment beginning the calendar quarter after the date of approval or beginning a later calendar quarter if requested by the employer. The employment ~~shall cease~~ ceases to be considered covered employment as of the first day of January of any calendar year only if at least 30 calendar days ~~prior to~~ before the first day of January the employer has filed with the commissioner, by electronic transmission in a format prescribed by the commissioner, a notice to that effect.

(b) The commissioner must terminate any election agreement under this subdivision upon 30 calendar days' notice sent by mail or electronic transmission, if the employer is delinquent on any taxes due or reimbursements due the trust fund.

Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.042, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **Authorization.** The commissioner is authorized to enter into reciprocal arrangements with other states and the federal government, or both, whereby employment by an employee or employees for a single employer that is customarily performed in more than one state ~~shall be~~ is considered performed entirely within any one of the states:

(1) where any part of the employee's employment is performed, or

(2) where the employee has a residence, or

(3) where the employer maintains a place of business; provided, there is in effect, as to the employment, an election, approved by the state, ~~pursuant to~~ under which all the employment by the employee or employees for the employer is considered to be performed entirely within that state.

Sec. 16. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.0435, is amended to read:

268.0435 SINGLE MEMBER LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANIES.

If the only member of a limited liability company is a corporation, and the limited liability company is disregarded for purposes of filing federal corporate income tax, all the workers performing services for the limited liability company must be reported on the corporation's wage detail report under section 268.044. A corporation that violates this section ~~shall be~~ is subject to the penalties under section 268.184, subdivision 1a. Penalties ~~shall be~~ are credited to the administration account to be used to ensure integrity in the unemployment insurance program.

Sec. 17. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.044, subdivision 1a, is amended to read:

Subd. 1a. **Electronic transmission of report required.** Each employer must submit the quarterly wage detail report by electronic transmission in a format prescribed by the commissioner. The commissioner ~~shall have~~ has the discretion to accept wage detail reports that are submitted by any other means or the commissioner may return the report submitted by other than electronic transmission to the employer, and reports returned ~~shall be~~ are considered as not submitted and the late fees under subdivision 2 may be imposed.

Sec. 18. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.044, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Failure to timely file report; late fees.** (a) Any employer that fails to submit the quarterly wage detail report when due ~~shall~~ must pay a late fee of \$10 per employee, computed based upon the highest of:

(1) the number of employees reported on the last wage detail report submitted;

(2) the number of employees reported in the corresponding quarter of the prior calendar year; or

(3) if no wage detail report has ever been submitted, the number of employees listed at the time of employer registration.

The late fee ~~shall be~~ is waived if the wage detail report is received within 30 calendar days after a demand for the report is sent to the employer by mail or electronic transmission. A late fee assessed an employer may not be waived more than twice each 12 months. The amount of the late fee assessed ~~shall~~ may not be less than \$250.

(b) If the wage detail report is not received in a manner and format prescribed by the commissioner within 30 calendar days after demand is sent under paragraph (a), the late fee assessed under paragraph (a) ~~shall double~~ doubles and a renewed demand notice and notice of the increased late fee ~~shall~~ will be sent to the employer by mail or electronic transmission.

(c) Late fees due under this subdivision may be compromised under section 268.067 where good cause for late submission is found by the commissioner.

Sec. 19. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.044, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **Fees.** The fees provided for in subdivisions 2 and 3 are in addition to interest and other penalties imposed by this chapter and ~~shall be~~ are collected in the same manner as delinquent taxes and ~~shall be~~ credited to the contingent account.

Sec. 20. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.045, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Account for each employer.** The commissioner shall maintain (1) a tax account for each taxpaying employer and (2) a reimbursable account for each nonprofit or government employer that has elected under section 268.052 or 268.053 to be liable for reimbursements, except as provided in section 268.046. The commissioner shall assess the tax account for all the taxes due under section 268.051 and credit the tax account with all taxes paid. The commissioner shall charge the reimbursable account for any unemployment benefits determined chargeable under section 268.047 and ~~shall~~ credit the reimbursable account with the payments made.

Sec. 21. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.046, is amended to read:

268.046 TAX AND REIMBURSABLE ACCOUNTS ASSIGNED TO EMPLOYEE LEASING COMPANIES, PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYER ORGANIZATIONS, OR SIMILAR PERSON.

Subdivision 1. **Tax accounts assigned.** (a) Any person that contracts with a taxpaying employer to have that person obtain the taxpaying employer's workforce and provide workers to the taxpaying employer for a fee ~~shall be~~ is, as of the effective date of the contract, ~~be~~ assigned for the duration of the contract the taxpaying employer's account under section 268.045. That tax account must be maintained by the person separate and distinct from every other tax account held by the person and identified in a manner prescribed by the commissioner. The tax account ~~shall be~~ is, for the duration of the contract, ~~be~~ considered that person's account for all purposes of this chapter. The workers obtained from the taxpaying employer and any other workers provided by that person to the taxpaying employer must, under section 268.044, be reported on the wage detail report under that tax account, and that person ~~shall~~ must pay any taxes due at the tax rate computed for that account under section 268.051, subdivision 2.

(b) Any workers of the taxpaying employer who are not covered by the contract under paragraph (a) must be reported by the taxpaying employer as a separate unit on the wage detail report under the tax account assigned under paragraph (a). Taxes and any

other amounts due on the wages reported by the taxpaying employer under this paragraph may be paid directly by the taxpaying employer.

(c) If the taxpaying employer that contracts with a person under paragraph (a) does not have a tax account at the time of the execution of the contract, an account must be registered for the taxpaying employer under section 268.042 and the new employer tax rate under section 268.051, subdivision 5, must be assigned. The tax account ~~shall~~ is then ~~be~~ assigned to the person as provided for in paragraph (a).

(d) A person that contracts with a taxpaying employer under paragraph (a) must, within 30 calendar days of the execution or termination of a contract, notify the commissioner by electronic transmission, in a format prescribed by the commissioner, of that execution or termination. The taxpaying employer's name, the account number assigned, and any other information required by the commissioner must be provided by that person.

(e) Any contract subject to paragraph (a) must specifically inform the taxpaying employer of the assignment of the tax account under this section and the taxpaying employer's obligation under paragraph (b). If there is a termination of the contract, the tax account ~~shall~~ is, as of the date of termination, immediately ~~be~~ assigned to the taxpaying employer.

Subd. 2. **Nonprofit and government reimbursable accounts assigned.** (a) Any person that contracts with a nonprofit or government employer that is a reimbursing employer to have that person obtain the nonprofit or government employer's workforce and provide workers to the nonprofit or government employer for a fee, ~~shall~~ is, as of the effective date of the contract, ~~be~~ assigned for the duration of the contract the nonprofit or government employer's account under section 268.045. That reimbursable account must be maintained by the person separate and distinct from every other account held by the person and identified in a manner prescribed by the commissioner. That reimbursable account ~~shall~~ is, for the duration of the contract, ~~be~~ considered that person's account for all purposes of this chapter. The workers obtained from the nonprofit or government employer and any other workers provided by that person to the nonprofit or government employer must, under section 268.044, be reported on the wage detail report under that reimbursable account, and that person ~~shall~~ must pay any reimbursements due.

(b) Any workers of the nonprofit or government employer who are not covered by the contract under paragraph (a) must be reported by the nonprofit or government employer as a separate unit on the wage detail report under the reimbursable account assigned under paragraph (a). Reimbursements and any other amounts due on the wages reported by the nonprofit or government employer under this paragraph may be paid directly by the nonprofit or government employer.

(c) If the nonprofit or government employer that contracts with a person under paragraph (a) does not have an account at the time of the execution of the contract, an account must be registered for the nonprofit or government employer under section 268.042. The reimbursable account ~~shall~~ is then ~~be~~ assigned to the person as provided for in paragraph (a).

(d) A person that contracts with a nonprofit or government employer under paragraph (a) must, within 30 calendar days of the execution or termination of a contract, notify the commissioner of that execution or termination by electronic transmission, in a format prescribed by the commissioner. The nonprofit or government employer's name,

the account number assigned, and any other information required by the commissioner must be provided by that person.

(e) Any contract subject to paragraph (a) must specifically inform the nonprofit or government employer of the assignment of the reimbursable account under this section and the nonprofit or government employer's obligation under paragraph (b). If there is a termination of the contract, the reimbursable account ~~shall~~ is, as of the date of termination, immediately ~~be~~ assigned to the nonprofit or government employer.

Subd. 3. **Penalties; application.** (a) Any person that violates the requirements of this section and any taxpaying employer that violates subdivision 1, paragraph (b), or any nonprofit or government employer that violates subdivision 2, paragraph (b), ~~shall be~~ is subject to the penalties under section 268.184, subdivision 1a. Penalties ~~shall be~~ are credited to the administration account to be used to ensure integrity in the unemployment insurance program.

(b) Section 268.051, subdivision 4, does not apply to contracts under this section. This section ~~shall~~ does not limit or prevent the application of section 268.051, subdivision 4, to any other transactions or acquisitions involving the taxpaying employer. This section ~~shall~~ does not limit or prevent the application of section 268.051, subdivision 4a.

(c) An assignment of an account upon the execution of a contract under this section and a termination of a contract with the corresponding assignment of the account ~~shall~~ is not ~~be~~ considered a separation from employment of any worker covered by the contract. Nothing under this subdivision ~~shall cause~~ causes the person to be liable for any amounts past due under this chapter from the taxpaying employer or the nonprofit or government employer.

(d) This section applies to, but is not limited to, persons registered under section 79.255, but does not apply to persons that obtain an exemption from registration under section 79.255, subdivision 9.

Sec. 22. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.047, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **General rule.** Unemployment benefits paid to an applicant, including extended, additional, and shared work benefits, ~~shall~~ will be used in computing the future tax rate of a taxpaying base period employer or charged to the reimbursable account of a base period nonprofit or government employer that has elected to be liable for reimbursements except as provided in subdivisions 2 and 3. The amount of unemployment benefits used in computing the future tax rate of taxpaying employers or charged to the reimbursable account of a nonprofit or government employer that has elected to be liable for reimbursements ~~shall be~~ is the same percentage of the total amount of unemployment benefits paid as the percentage of wage credits from the employer is of the total amount of wage credits from all the applicant's base period employers.

In making computations under this subdivision, the amount of wage credits, if not a whole dollar, ~~shall~~ must be computed to the nearest whole dollar.

Sec. 23. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.047, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Exceptions for taxpaying employers.** Unemployment benefits paid ~~shall~~ will not be used in computing the future tax rate of a taxpaying base period employer when:

- (1) the applicant's wage credits from that employer are less than \$500;

(2) the applicant quit the employment, unless it was determined under section 268.095, to have been because of a good reason caused by the employer or because the employer notified the applicant of discharge within 30 calendar days. This exception ~~shall apply~~ applies only to unemployment benefits paid for periods after the applicant's quitting the employment; or

(3) the employer discharged the applicant from employment because of employment misconduct as determined under section 268.095. This exception ~~shall apply~~ applies only to unemployment benefits paid for periods after the applicant's discharge from employment.

Sec. 24. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.051, subdivision 4a, is amended to read:

Subd. 4a. **Actions that avoid taxes.** (a) If the commissioner determines that any action was done, in whole or in part, to avoid:

- (1) an experience rating history;
- (2) the transfer of an experience rating history; or

(3) the assignment of a tax rate for new employers under subdivision 5, paragraph (a) or (b), the commissioner, to insure that the trust fund receives all the taxes that would have been received had the action not occurred, may, effective the date of the action, transfer all or part of an experience rating history and recompute the tax rate or assign the appropriate new employer tax rate.

(b) This subdivision ~~shall apply~~ applies to any action between persons regardless of whether there is any commonality of ownership, management, or control between the persons. The authority granted to the commissioner under this subdivision is in addition to any other authority granted to the commissioner.

Sec. 25. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.051, subdivision 9, is amended to read:

Subd. 9. **Assessments, fees, and surcharges; treatment.** Any assessment, fee, or surcharge imposed under the Minnesota Unemployment Insurance Law ~~shall be~~ is treated the same as, and considered as, a tax. Any assessment, fee, or surcharge ~~shall be~~ is subject to the same collection procedures that apply to past due taxes.

Sec. 26. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.052, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Payments.** In lieu of taxes payable on a quarterly basis, the state of Minnesota or its political subdivisions ~~shall~~ must reimburse the trust fund the amount of unemployment benefits charged to its reimbursable account under section 268.047. Reimbursements in the amount of unemployment benefits charged to the reimbursable account during a calendar quarter must be received by the department on or before the last day of the month following the month that the notice of unemployment benefits paid is sent ~~pursuant to~~ under section 268.047, subdivision 5. Past due reimbursements ~~shall be~~ are subject to the same interest charges and collection procedures that apply to past due taxes.

Sec. 27. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.052, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Election by state or political subdivision to be a taxpaying employer.** (a) The state or political subdivision may elect to be a taxpaying employer for any calendar year if a notice of election is filed within 30 calendar days following January 1 of that calendar year. Upon election, the state or political subdivision ~~shall~~ must be assigned the

new employer tax rate under section 268.051, subdivision 5, for the calendar year of the election and until it qualifies for an experience rating under section 268.051, subdivision 3.

(b) An election ~~shall be~~ is for a minimum period of two calendar years following the effective date of the election and continue unless a notice terminating the election is filed not later than 30 calendar days before the beginning of the calendar year. The termination ~~shall be~~ is effective at the beginning of the next calendar year. Upon election, the commissioner shall establish a reimbursable account for the state or political subdivision. A termination of election ~~shall be~~ is allowed only if the state or political subdivision has, since the beginning of the experience rating period under section 268.051, subdivision 3, paid taxes equal to or more than 125 percent of the unemployment benefits used in computing the experience rating. In addition, any unemployment benefits paid after the experience rating period ~~shall be~~ are transferred to the new reimbursable account of the state or political subdivision. If the amount of taxes paid since the beginning of the experience rating period exceeds 125 percent of the amount of unemployment benefits paid during the experience rating period, that amount in excess ~~shall be~~ is applied against any unemployment benefits paid after the experience rating period.

(c) The method of payments to the trust fund under subdivisions 3 and 4 ~~shall apply~~ applies to all taxes paid by or due from the state or political subdivision that elects to be taxpaying employers under this subdivision.

(d) A notice of election or a notice terminating election ~~shall~~ must be filed by electronic transmission in a format prescribed by the commissioner.

Sec. 28. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.052, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Method of payment by state.** To discharge its liability, the state and its wholly owned instrumentalities ~~shall~~ must pay the trust fund as follows:

(1) Every self-sustaining department, institution and wholly owned instrumentality ~~shall~~ must pay the trust fund in accordance with subdivision 1. For the purposes of this clause a "self-sustaining department, institution or wholly owned instrumentality" is one where the dedicated income and revenue substantially offsets its cost of operation.

(2) Every partially self-sustaining department, institution and wholly owned instrumentality ~~shall~~ must pay the trust fund that same proportion of the amount that has been charged to its employer account as the proportion of the total of its income and revenue is to its annual cost of operation.

(3) Every department, institution or wholly owned instrumentality that is not self-sustaining ~~shall~~ must pay the trust fund to the extent funds are available from appropriated funds.

(4) The departments, institutions and wholly owned instrumentalities, including the University of Minnesota, that have money available ~~shall~~ must pay the trust fund in accordance with subdivision 1. If an applicant was paid during the base period from a special account provided by law, the payment to the trust fund ~~shall~~ must be made from the special account with the approval of the Department of Administration and the amounts are ~~hereby~~ appropriated.

(5) For those departments, institutions and wholly owned instrumentalities that cannot pay the trust fund, the commissioner shall certify on November 1 of each calendar year to the commissioner of finance the unpaid balances. Upon receipt of the certification,

the commissioner of finance shall include the unpaid balances in the biennial budget submitted to the legislature.

Sec. 29. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.052, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **Method of payment by political subdivision.** A political subdivision or instrumentality thereof is authorized and directed to pay its liabilities by money collected from taxes or other revenues. Every political subdivision authorized to levy taxes except school districts may include in its tax levy the amount necessary to pay its liabilities. School districts may levy according to section 126C.43, subdivision 2. If the taxes authorized to be levied cause the total amount of taxes levied to exceed any limitation upon the power of a political subdivision to levy taxes, the political subdivision may levy taxes in excess of the limitations in the amounts necessary to meet its liability. The expenditures authorized ~~shall~~ must not be included in computing the cost of government as defined in any home rule charter. The governing body of a municipality, for the purpose of meeting its liabilities, in the event of a deficit, may issue its obligations payable in not more than two years, in an amount that may cause its indebtedness to exceed any statutory or charter limitations, without an election, and may levy taxes in the manner provided in section 475.61.

Sec. 30. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.052, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

Subd. 5. **Considered an election.** If the state of Minnesota or its political subdivisions choose not to be a taxpaying employer under subdivision 2, the state or its political subdivision ~~shall be~~ are considered, for purposes of the Minnesota unemployment insurance program, to have elected to be liable for reimbursements under subdivision 1.

Sec. 31. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.0525, is amended to read:

268.0525 INDIAN TRIBES.

(a) An Indian tribe, as defined under United States Code, title 25, section 450b(e) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, and any subdivision, subsidiary, or business enterprise owned by the Indian tribe, ~~shall~~ must be treated the same as the state of Minnesota, or a political subdivision of the state, for all purposes of the Minnesota Unemployment Insurance Law.

(b) The Indian tribe may make separate elections under section 268.052, subdivision 2, for itself and each subdivision, subsidiary, or business enterprise wholly owned by the Indian tribe.

(c) If an Indian tribe, subdivision, subsidiary, or business enterprise wholly owned by the tribe, which has elected to be liable for reimbursements, fails to make the required payments within 90 calendar days of the notice of delinquency, the commissioner shall terminate the election to make reimbursements as of the beginning of the next calendar year, unless all past due reimbursements, and any interest and penalties, have been paid before the beginning of the next calendar year.

An Indian tribe, subdivision, subsidiary, or business enterprise wholly owned by the tribe that has its election terminated under this paragraph ~~shall~~ must become a taxpaying employer and assigned the new employer tax rate under section 268.051, subdivision 5, until the tribe, subdivision, subsidiary, or business enterprise wholly owned by the Indian tribe qualifies for an experience rating under section 268.051, subdivision 3.

Sec. 32. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.053, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Election.** (a) Any nonprofit organization that has employees in covered employment ~~shall must~~ pay taxes on a quarterly basis ~~pursuant to~~ in accordance with section 268.051 unless it elects to make reimbursements to the trust fund the amount of unemployment benefits charged to its reimbursable account under section 268.047.

The organization may elect to make reimbursements for a period of not less than two calendar years beginning with the date that the organization was determined to be an employer with covered employment by filing a notice of election not later than 30 calendar days after the date of the determination.

(b) Any nonprofit organization that makes an election will continue to be liable for reimbursements until it files a notice terminating its election not later than 30 calendar days before the beginning of the calendar year the termination is to be effective.

(c) A nonprofit organization that has been making reimbursements that files a notice of termination of election ~~shall must~~ be assigned the new employer tax rate under section 268.051, subdivision 5, for the calendar year of the termination of election and until it qualifies for an experience rating under section 268.051, subdivision 3.

(d) Any nonprofit organization that has been paying taxes may elect to make reimbursements by filing no less than 30 calendar days before January 1 of any calendar year a notice of election. Upon election, the commissioner shall establish a reimbursable account for the nonprofit organization. An election ~~shall be~~ is allowed only if the nonprofit organization has, since the beginning of the experience rating period under section 268.051, subdivision 3, paid taxes equal to or more than 125 percent of the unemployment benefits used in computing the experience rating. In addition, any unemployment benefits paid after the experience rating period ~~shall be~~ are transferred to the new reimbursable account of the nonprofit organization. If the amount of taxes paid since the beginning of the experience rating period exceeds 125 percent of the amount of unemployment benefits paid during the experience rating period, that amount in excess ~~shall be~~ is applied against any unemployment benefits paid after the experience rating period. The election ~~shall is~~ is not ~~be~~ terminable by the organization for that and the next calendar year.

(e) The commissioner may for good cause extend the period that a notice of election, or a notice of termination, must be filed and may permit an election to be retroactive.

(f) A notice of election or notice terminating election ~~shall must~~ be filed by electronic transmission in a format prescribed by the commissioner.

Sec. 33. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.053, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Payments.** (a) Reimbursements, in the amount of unemployment benefits charged to the reimbursable account, during a calendar quarter, must be received by the department on or before the last day of the month following the month that the notice of unemployment benefits paid is sent ~~pursuant to~~ under section 268.047, subdivision 5.

(b) Past due reimbursements ~~shall be~~ are subject to the same interest charges and collection procedures that apply to past due taxes.

(c) If any nonprofit organization is delinquent in making reimbursements, the commissioner may terminate the organization's election to make reimbursements as of the beginning of the next calendar year, and the termination ~~shall be~~ is effective for that and the following calendar year. A nonprofit organization that has its election terminated

under this paragraph ~~shall~~ must be assigned the new employer tax rate under section 268.051, subdivision 5, until the organization qualifies for an experience rating under section 268.051, subdivision 3.

Sec. 34. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.057, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Amount computed presumed correct.** Any amount due from an employer, as computed by the commissioner, ~~shall be~~ is presumed to be correctly determined and assessed, and the burden ~~shall be~~ is upon the employer to show its incorrectness. A statement by the commissioner of the amount due ~~shall be~~ is admissible in evidence in any court or administrative proceeding and ~~shall be~~ is prima facie evidence of the facts in the statement.

Sec. 35. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.057, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Priority of payments.** (a) Any payment received from a taxpaying employer ~~shall~~ must be applied in the following order:

- (1) unemployment insurance taxes; then
- (2) special assessment for interest on any federal loan; then
- (3) workforce development fee; then
- (4) interest on past due taxes; then
- (5) penalties, late fees, administrative service fees, and costs.

(b) Paragraph (a) ~~shall be~~ is the priority used for all payments received from a taxpaying employer, regardless of how the employer may designate the payment to be applied, except when:

(1) there is an outstanding lien and the employer designates that the payment made should be applied to satisfy the lien;

(2) the payment is for back pay withheld from an applicant ~~pursuant to~~ under section 268.085, subdivision 6, paragraph (b);

(3) the payment is specifically designated by the employer to be applied to an outstanding overpayment of unemployment benefits of an applicant;

(4) a court or administrative order directs that the payment be applied to a specific obligation;

(5) a preexisting payment plan provides for the application of payment; or

(6) the commissioner, under the compromise authority of section 268.067, agrees to apply the payment to a different priority.

Sec. 36. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.057, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Estimating the tax due.** Only if an employer fails to make all necessary records available for an audit ~~pursuant to~~ under section 268.186, paragraph (b), and the commissioner has reason to believe the employer has not reported all the required wages on the quarterly wage detail reports under section 268.044, may the commissioner then estimate the amount of tax due and assess the employer the estimated amount due.

Sec. 37. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.057, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **Costs.** Any person that fails to pay any amount when due under this chapter is liable for any filing fees, recording fees, sheriff fees, costs incurred by referral to any public or private collection agency, or litigation costs, including attorney fees, incurred in the collection of the amounts due.

If any tendered payment of any amount due, is not honored when presented to a financial institution for payment, any costs assessed the department by the financial institution and a fee of \$25 shall must be assessed to the person.

Costs and fees collected under this subdivision ~~shall be~~ are credited to the administration account to be used by the commissioner to ensure integrity in the administration of the unemployment insurance program.

Sec. 38. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.057, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

Subd. 5. **Interest on amounts past due.** If any amounts due from an employer under this chapter or section 116L.20, except late fees under section 268.044, are not received on the date due the unpaid balance ~~shall bear~~ bears interest at the rate of one and one-half percent per month or any part thereof. Interest assessed, if not a whole dollar amount, ~~shall be~~ is rounded down to the next lower whole dollar. Interest collected ~~shall be~~ is credited to the contingent account. Interest may be compromised under section 268.067.

Sec. 39. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.057, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

Subd. 6. **Interest on judgments.** Regardless of section 549.09, if judgment is entered upon any past due amounts from an employer under this chapter or section 116L.20, the unpaid judgment ~~shall bear~~ bears interest at the rate specified in subdivision 5 until the date of payment.

Sec. 40. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.057, subdivision 10, is amended to read:

Subd. 10. **Priorities under legal dissolutions or distributions.** In the event of any distribution of an employer's assets pursuant according to an order of any court, including any receivership, assignment for benefit of creditors, adjudicated insolvency, or similar proceeding, taxes then or thereafter due shall must be paid in full ~~prior to~~ before all other claims except claims for wages of not more than \$1,000 per former employee, earned within six months of the commencement of the proceedings. In the event of an employer's adjudication in bankruptcy under federal law, taxes then or thereafter due ~~shall be~~ are entitled to the priority provided in that law for taxes due any state.

Sec. 41. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.058, is amended to read:

268.058 LIEN, LEVY, SETOFF, AND CIVIL ACTION.

Subdivision 1. **Lien.** (a) Any amount due under this chapter or section 116L.20, from an applicant or an employer, ~~shall become~~ becomes a lien upon all the property, within this state, both real and personal, of the person liable, from the date of assessment. The term "date of assessment" means the date the obligation was due.

(b) The lien is not enforceable against any purchaser, mortgagee, pledgee, holder of a Uniform Commercial Code security interest, mechanic's lien, or judgment lien creditor, until a notice of lien has been filed with the county recorder of the county where the property is situated, or in the case of personal property belonging to a nonresident person in the Office of the Secretary of State. When the notice of lien is filed with the county

recorder, the fee for filing and indexing ~~shall be~~ is as provided in sections 272.483 and 272.484.

(c) Notices of liens, lien renewals, and lien releases, in a form prescribed by the commissioner, may be filed with the county recorder or the secretary of state by mail, personal delivery, or by electronic transmission into the computerized filing system of the secretary of state. The secretary of state shall, on any notice filed with that office, transmit the notice electronically to the appropriate county recorder. The filing officer, whether the county recorder or the secretary of state, shall endorse and index a printout of the notice as if the notice had been mailed or delivered.

(d) County recorders and the secretary of state shall enter information on lien notices, renewals, and releases into the central database of the secretary of state. For notices filed electronically with the county recorders, the date and time of receipt of the notice and county recorder's file number, and for notices filed electronically with the secretary of state, the secretary of state's recording information, must be entered into the central database before the close of the working day following the day of the original data entry by the commissioner.

(e) The lien imposed on personal property, even though properly filed, is not enforceable against a purchaser of tangible personal property purchased at retail or personal property listed as exempt in sections 550.37, 550.38, and 550.39.

(f) A notice of lien filed has priority over any security interest arising under chapter 336, article 9, that is perfected prior in time to the lien imposed by this subdivision, but only if:

(1) the perfected security interest secures property not in existence at the time the notice of lien is filed; and

(2) the property comes into existence after the 45th calendar day following the day the notice of lien is filed, or after the secured party has actual notice or knowledge of the lien filing, whichever is earlier.

(g) The lien ~~shall be~~ is enforceable from the time the lien arises and for ten years from the date of filing the notice of lien. A notice of lien may be renewed before expiration for an additional ten years.

(h) The lien ~~shall be~~ is enforceable by levy under subdivision 2 or by judgment lien foreclosure under chapter 550.

(i) The lien may be imposed upon property defined as homestead property in chapter 510 but may be enforced only upon the sale, transfer, or conveyance of the homestead property.

(j) The commissioner may sell and assign to a third party the commissioner's right of redemption in specific real property for liens filed under this subdivision. The assignee ~~shall be~~ is limited to the same rights of redemption as the commissioner, except that in a bankruptcy proceeding, the assignee does not obtain the commissioner's priority. Any proceeds from the sale of the right of redemption ~~shall be~~ are credited to the contingent account.

Subd. 2. **Levy.** (a) If any amount due under this chapter or section 116L.20, from an applicant or an employer, is not paid when due, the amount may be collected by the commissioner by direct levy upon all property and rights of property of the person liable

for the amount due except that exempt from execution under section 550.37. The term "levy" includes the power of distraint and seizure by any means.

(b) In addition to a direct levy, the commissioner may issue a warrant to the sheriff of any county who shall proceed within 60 calendar days to levy upon the property or rights to property of the delinquent person within the county, except that exempt under section 550.37. The sheriff shall sell that property necessary to satisfy the total amount due, together with the commissioner's and sheriff's costs. The sales ~~shall be~~ are governed by the law applicable to sales of like property on execution of a judgment.

(c) Notice and demand for payment of the total amount due ~~shall must~~ must be mailed to the delinquent person at least ten calendar days ~~prior to~~ before action being taken under paragraphs (a) and (b).

(d) If the commissioner has reason to believe that collection of the amount due is in jeopardy, notice and demand for immediate payment may be made. If the total amount due is not paid, the commissioner may proceed to collect by direct levy or issue a warrant without regard to the ten calendar day period.

(e) In executing the levy, the commissioner shall have all of the powers provided in chapter 550 or any other law that provides for execution against property in this state. The sale of property levied upon and the time and manner of redemption ~~shall be~~ is as provided in chapter 550. The seal of the court ~~shall is~~ is not ~~be~~ required. The levy may be made whether or not the commissioner has commenced a legal action for collection.

(f) Where any assessment has been made by the commissioner, the property seized for collection of the total amount due ~~shall must~~ must not be sold until any determination of liability has become final. No sale ~~shall may~~ may be made unless a portion of the amount due remains unpaid for a period of more than 30 calendar days after the determination of liability becomes final. Seized property may be sold at any time if:

(1) the delinquent person consents in writing to the sale; or

(2) the commissioner determines that the property is perishable or may become greatly reduced in price or value by keeping, or that the property cannot be kept without great expense.

(g) Where a levy has been made to collect the amount due and the property seized is properly included in a formal proceeding commenced under sections 524.3-401 to 524.3-505 and maintained under full supervision of the court, the property ~~shall may~~ may not be sold until the probate proceedings are completed or until the court orders.

(h) The property seized ~~shall must~~ must be returned if the owner:

(1) gives a surety bond equal to the appraised value of the owner's interest in the property, as determined by the commissioner, or

(2) deposits with the commissioner security in a form and amount the commissioner considers necessary to insure payment of the liability.

(i) If a levy or sale would irreparably injure rights in property that the court determines superior to rights of the state, the court may grant an injunction to prohibit the enforcement of the levy or to prohibit the sale.

(j) Any person who fails or refuses to surrender without reasonable cause any property or rights to property subject to levy ~~shall be~~ is personally liable in an amount equal to the value of the property or rights not so surrendered, but not exceeding the amount due.

(k) If the commissioner has seized the property of any individual, that individual may, upon giving 48 hours notice to the commissioner and to the court, bring a claim for equitable relief before the district court for the release of the property upon terms and conditions the court considers equitable.

(l) Any person in control or possession of property or rights to property upon which a levy has been made who surrenders the property or rights to property, or who pays the amount due ~~shall be~~ is discharged from any obligation or liability to the person liable for the amount due with respect to the property or rights to property.

(m) The notice of any levy may be served personally or by mail.

(n) The commissioner may release the levy upon all or part of the property or rights to property levied upon if the commissioner determines that the release will facilitate the collection of the liability, but the release ~~shall~~ does not prevent any subsequent levy. If the commissioner determines that property has been wrongfully levied upon, the commissioner shall return:

(1) the specific property levied upon, at any time; or

(2) an amount of money equal to the amount of money levied upon, at any time before the expiration of nine months from the date of levy.

(o) Regardless of section 52.12, a levy upon a person's funds on deposit in a financial institution located in this state, ~~shall have~~ has priority over any unexercised right of setoff of the financial institution to apply the levied funds toward the balance of an outstanding loan or loans owed by the person to the financial institution. A claim by the financial institution that it exercised its right to setoff ~~prior to~~ before the levy must be substantiated by evidence of the date of the setoff, and verified by an affidavit from a corporate officer of the financial institution. For purposes of determining the priority of any levy under this subdivision, the levy ~~shall be~~ is treated as if it were an execution under chapter 550.

Subd. 3. **Right of setoff.** (a) Upon certification by the commissioner to the commissioner of finance, or to any state agency that disburses its own funds, that a person, applicant, or employer has a liability under this chapter or section 116L.20, and that the state has purchased personal services, supplies, contract services, or property from that person, the commissioner of finance or the state agency shall set off and pay to the commissioner an amount sufficient to satisfy the unpaid liability from funds appropriated for payment of the obligation of the state otherwise due the person. No amount ~~shall~~ may be set off from any funds exempt under section 550.37 or funds due an individual who receives assistance under chapter 256.

(b) All funds, whether general or dedicated, ~~shall be~~ are subject to setoff.

Regardless of any law to the contrary, the commissioner ~~shall have~~ has first priority to setoff from any funds otherwise due from the department to a delinquent person.

Subd. 4. **Collection by civil action.** (a) Any amount due under this chapter or section 116L.20, from an applicant or employer, may be collected by civil action in the name of the state of Minnesota. Civil actions brought under this subdivision ~~shall~~ must be heard as provided under section 16D.14. In any action, judgment ~~shall~~ must be entered in default for the relief demanded in the complaint without proof, together with costs and disbursements, upon the filing of an affidavit of default.

(b) Any person that is not a resident of this state and any resident person removed from this state, ~~shall be~~ is considered to appoint the secretary of state as its agent for the acceptance of process in any civil action. The commissioner shall file process with the secretary of state, together with a payment of a fee of \$15 and that service ~~shall be~~ is considered sufficient service and ~~shall have~~ has the same force and validity as if served personally within this state. Notice of the service of process, together with a copy of the process, ~~shall~~ must be sent by certified mail to the person's last known address. An affidavit of compliance with this subdivision, and a copy of the notice of service ~~shall~~ must be appended to the original of the process and filed in the court.

(c) No court filing fees, docketing fees, or release of judgment fees may be assessed against the state for actions ~~pursuant to~~ under this subdivision.

Subd. 5. **Injunction forbidden.** No injunction or other legal action to prevent the determination, assessment, or collection of any amounts due under this chapter or section 116L.20, from an applicant or employer, ~~shall be~~ are allowed.

Sec. 42. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.059, is amended to read:

268.059 GARNISHMENT FOR DELINQUENT TAXES AND UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT OVERPAYMENTS.

Subdivision 1. **Notice.** The commissioner may give notice to any employer that an employee owes any amounts due under this chapter or section 116L.20, and that the obligation should be withheld from the employee's wages. The commissioner may proceed only if the amount due is uncontested or if the time for any appeal has expired. The commissioner ~~shall may~~ not proceed until 30 calendar days after sending to the debtor employee, by mail or electronic transmission, a notice of intent to garnish wages and exemption notice. That notice ~~shall~~ must list:

- (1) the amount due from the debtor;
- (2) demand for immediate payment; and
- (3) the intention to serve a garnishment notice on the debtor's employer.

The notice ~~shall expire~~ expires 180 calendar days after it has been sent to the debtor provided that the notice may be renewed by sending a new notice that is in accordance with this section. The renewed notice ~~shall have~~ has the effect of reinstating the priority of the original notice. The exemption notice ~~shall~~ must be in substantially the same form as in section 571.72. The notice ~~shall~~ must inform the debtor of the right to claim exemptions contained in section 550.37, subdivision 14. If no claim of exemption is received by the commissioner within 30 calendar days after sending of the notice, the commissioner may proceed with the garnishment. The notice to the debtor's employer may be served by mail or electronic transmission and ~~shall~~ must be in substantially the same form as in section 571.75.

Subd. 2. **Employer action.** (a) Upon receipt of the garnishment notice, the employer ~~shall~~ must withhold from the earnings due or to become due to the employee, the amount shown on the notice plus accrued interest, subject to section 571.922. The employer ~~shall~~ must continue to withhold each pay period the amount shown on the notice plus accrued interest until the garnishment notice is released by the commissioner. Upon receipt of notice by the employer, the claim of the commissioner ~~shall have~~ has priority over any subsequent garnishments or wage assignments. The commissioner may arrange

between the employer and employee for withholding a portion of the total amount due the employee each pay period, until the total amount shown on the notice plus accrued interest has been withheld.

The "earnings due" any employee is as defined in section 571.921.

(b) The maximum garnishment allowed for any one pay period shall be decreased by any amounts payable ~~pursuant to~~ under any other garnishment action served ~~prior to~~ before the garnishment notice, and any amounts covered by any irrevocable and previously effective assignment of wages; the employer ~~shall~~ must give notice to the commissioner of the amounts and the facts relating to the assignment within ten calendar days after the service of the garnishment notice on the form provided by the commissioner.

(c) Within ten calendar days after the expiration of the pay period, the employer ~~shall~~ must remit to the commissioner, on a form and in the manner prescribed by the commissioner, the amount withheld during each pay period.

Subd. 3. **Discharge or discipline prohibited.** (a) If the employee ceases to be employed by the employer before the full amount set forth on the garnishment notice plus accrued interest has been withheld, the employer ~~shall~~ must immediately notify the commissioner in writing or by electronic transmission, as prescribed by the commissioner, of the termination date of the employee and the total amount withheld. No employer may discharge or discipline any employee because the commissioner has proceeded under this section. If an employer discharges an employee in violation of this section, the employee ~~shall have~~ has the same remedy as provided in section 571.927, subdivision 2.

(b) This section ~~shall apply~~ applies if the employer is the state of Minnesota or any political subdivision.

(c) The commissioner shall refund to the employee any excess amounts withheld from the employee.

(d) An employer that fails or refuses to comply with this section ~~shall be~~ is jointly and severally liable for the total amount due from the employee. Any amount due from the employer under this paragraph may be collected in the same manner as any other amounts due from an employer under this chapter.

Sec. 43. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.0625, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

Subd. 5. **Licensing authority; duties.** Upon request, the licensing authority ~~shall~~ must provide the commissioner with a list of all licensees, including the name, address, business name and address, Social Security number, and business identification number. The commissioner may request a list of the licensees no more than once each calendar year. Regardless of section 268.19, the commissioner may release information necessary to accomplish this section.

Sec. 44. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.064, is amended to read:

268.064 LIABILITY FOR DEBTS UPON ACQUISITION.

Subdivision 1. **Acquisition of organization, trade, business, or assets.** Any person who acquires all or part of the organization, trade, business or assets from an employer, is jointly and severally liable, in an amount not to exceed the reasonable value of that part of the organization, trade, business or assets acquired, for any amounts due and unpaid by the employer. The amount of liability ~~shall~~ is, in addition, ~~be~~ a lien against the property or

assets acquired and ~~shall be prior to~~ is before all other unrecorded liens. This section does not apply to sales in the normal course of the employer's business.

Subd. 2. **Reasonable value.** The commissioner, upon the commissioner's own motion or upon application of the acquiring person, shall determine the reasonable value of the organization, trade, business or assets acquired based on available information. The determination ~~shall be~~ is final unless the acquiring person, within ~~30~~ 20 calendar days after being sent the determination by mail or electronic transmission, files an appeal. Proceedings on the appeal ~~shall be~~ are conducted in accordance with section 268.105.

Subd. 3. **Statement of amount due.** ~~Prior to~~ Before the date of acquisition, the commissioner ~~shall~~ must furnish the acquiring person with a statement of the amounts due and unpaid under this chapter or section 116L.20 upon the request of the potential acquiring person and the release of the obligor. No release is required after the date of acquisition.

Sec. 45. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.065, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Subcontractors.** A contractor who contracts with any subcontractor ~~shall~~ must guarantee the payment of all amounts that are due or become due from the subcontractor with respect to taxable wages paid on the contract by:

- (1) withholding sufficient money on the contract; or
- (2) requiring the subcontractor to provide a sufficient bond guaranteeing the payment of all amounts that may become due.

The contractor may make a request for verification that the subcontractor has paid the taxes due 60 calendar days after the due date for filing the wage detail report that includes the final wages paid for employment performed under the contract. If the subcontractor has paid the amounts due for the period covered by the contract, the commissioner may release the contractor from its liability.

The words "contractor" and "subcontractor" include individuals, partnerships, firms, or corporations, or other association of persons engaged in the construction industry.

Sec. 46. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.067, is amended to read:

268.067 COMPROMISE.

(a) The commissioner may compromise in whole or in part any action, determination, or decision that affects only an employer and not an applicant, and that has occurred during the prior 24 months. This paragraph may apply if it is determined by a court of law, or a confession of judgment, that an applicant, while employed, wrongfully took from the employer \$500 or more in money or property.

(b) The commissioner may at any time compromise any amount due from an employer under this chapter or section 116L.20.

(c) Any compromise involving an amount over \$2,500 ~~shall~~ must be authorized by an attorney who is an employee of the department designated by the commissioner for that purpose.

(d) Any compromise must be in the best interest of the state of Minnesota.

Sec. 47. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.0675, is amended to read:

268.0675 NO ELECTION OF REMEDY.

Use of any remedy under this chapter for the collection of any amount due from an employer or an applicant ~~shall~~ does not constitute an election of remedy to the exclusion of any other available remedy.

Sec. 48. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.068, is amended to read:

268.068 NOTICE TO WORKERS.

Each employer ~~shall~~ must post and maintain printed statements of an individual's right to apply for unemployment benefits in places readily accessible to workers in the employer's service. The printed statements ~~shall~~ must be supplied by the commissioner at no cost to an employer.

Sec. 49. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.069, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Unemployment benefits paid from state funds.** Unemployment benefits are paid from state funds and ~~shall~~ are not ~~be~~ considered paid from any special insurance plan, nor as paid by an employer. An application for unemployment benefits ~~shall~~ is not ~~be~~ considered a claim against an employer but ~~shall~~ ~~be~~ is considered a request for unemployment benefits from the trust fund. The commissioner has the responsibility for the proper payment of unemployment benefits regardless of the level of interest or participation by an applicant or an employer in any determination or appeal. An applicant's entitlement to unemployment benefits ~~shall~~ must be determined based upon that information available without regard to any common law burden of proof, and any agreement between an applicant and an employer ~~shall~~ is not ~~be~~ binding on the commissioner in determining an applicant's entitlement. There ~~shall~~ ~~be~~ is no presumption of entitlement or nonentitlement to unemployment benefits.

Sec. 50. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.069, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Common law.** There ~~shall~~ ~~be~~ is no equitable or common law denial or allowance of unemployment benefits.

Sec. 51. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.084, is amended to read:

268.084 PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER; PRESUMPTION.

(a) Each applicant ~~shall~~ must be issued a personal identification number (PIN) for the purpose of filing continued biweekly requests for unemployment benefits, accessing information, and engaging in other transactions with the department.

(b) If a PIN assigned to an applicant is used in the filing of a continued biweekly request for unemployment benefits under section 268.086 or any other type of transaction, the applicant ~~shall~~ ~~be~~ is presumed to have been the individual using that PIN and presumed to have received any unemployment benefit payment issued. This presumption may be rebutted by a preponderance of the evidence showing that the applicant assigned the PIN was not the individual who used that PIN in the transaction.

(c) The commissioner shall notify each applicant of this section.

Sec. 52. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.085, subdivision 3a, is amended to read:

Subd. 3a. **Workers' compensation and disability insurance offset.** (a) An applicant is not eligible to receive unemployment benefits for any week in which the applicant is receiving or has received compensation for loss of wages equal to or in excess of the applicant's weekly unemployment benefit amount under:

- (1) the workers' compensation law of this state;
- (2) the workers' compensation law of any other state or similar federal law; or
- (3) any insurance or trust fund paid in whole or in part by an employer.

(b) This subdivision ~~shall~~ does not apply to an applicant who has a claim pending for loss of wages under paragraph (a); however, before unemployment benefits may be paid when a claim is pending, the issue of the applicant being able to work, as required under subdivision 1, clause (2), ~~shall be~~ is determined under section 268.101, subdivision 3. If the applicant later receives compensation as a result of the pending claim, the applicant is subject to the provisions of paragraph (a) and the unemployment benefits paid ~~shall be~~ are subject to recoupment by the commissioner to the extent that the compensation constitutes overpaid unemployment benefits.

(c) If the amount of compensation described under paragraph (a) for any week is less than the applicant's weekly unemployment benefit amount, unemployment benefits requested for that week ~~shall be~~ are reduced by the amount of that compensation payment.

Sec. 53. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.085, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

Subd. 6. **Receipt of back pay.** (a) Back pay received by an applicant with respect to any week occurring in the 104 weeks ~~prior to~~ before the payment of the back pay ~~shall~~ must be deducted from unemployment benefits paid for that week.

If the back pay is not paid with respect to a specific period, the back pay ~~shall~~ must be applied to the period immediately following the last day of employment.

(b) If the back pay is reduced by the amount of unemployment benefits that have been paid, the amount of back pay withheld ~~shall~~ must be:

- (1) paid by the employer to the trust fund within 30 calendar days and subject to the same collection procedures that apply to past due taxes;
- (2) applied to unemployment benefit overpayments resulting from the payment of the back pay; and
- (3) credited to the maximum amount of unemployment benefits available to the applicant in a benefit year that includes the weeks for which back pay was deducted.

(c) Unemployment benefits paid the applicant ~~shall~~ must be removed from the computation of the tax rate for taxpaying employers and removed from the reimbursable account for nonprofit and government employers that have elected to be liable for reimbursements in the calendar quarter the trust fund receives payment.

(d) Payments to the trust fund under this subdivision ~~shall be~~ are considered as made by the applicant.

Sec. 54. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.085, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

Subd. 7. **School employees.** (a) No wage credits in any amount from any employment with any educational institution or institutions earned in any capacity may

be used for unemployment benefit purposes for any week during the period between two successive academic years or terms if:

(1) the applicant had employment for any educational institution or institutions in the prior academic year or term; and

(2) there is a reasonable assurance that the applicant will have employment for any educational institution or institutions in the following academic year or term, unless that subsequent employment is substantially less favorable than the employment of the prior academic year or term.

(b) Paragraph (a) ~~shall does~~ not apply to an applicant who, at the end of the prior academic year or term, had an agreement for a definite period of employment between academic years or terms in other than an instructional, research, or principal administrative capacity and the educational institution or institutions failed to provide that employment.

(c) If unemployment benefits are denied to any applicant under paragraph (a) who was employed in the prior academic year or term in other than an instructional, research, or principal administrative capacity and who was not offered an opportunity to perform the employment in the following academic year or term, the applicant ~~shall be~~ is entitled to retroactive unemployment benefits for each week during the period between academic years or terms that the applicant filed a timely continued biweekly request for unemployment benefits, but unemployment benefits were denied solely because of paragraph (a).

(d) An educational assistant ~~shall is~~ not ~~be~~ considered to be in an instructional, research, or principal administrative capacity.

(e) Paragraph (a) ~~shall apply~~ applies to any vacation period or holiday recess if the applicant was employed immediately before the vacation period or holiday recess, and there is a reasonable assurance that the applicant will be employed immediately following the vacation period or holiday recess.

(f) This subdivision ~~shall apply~~ applies to employment with an educational service agency if the applicant performed the services at an educational institution or institutions. "Educational service agency" means a governmental agency or entity established and operated exclusively for the purpose of providing services to one or more educational institutions. This subdivision ~~shall~~ also apply applies to employment with Minnesota or a political subdivision, or a nonprofit organization, if the services are provided to or on behalf of an educational institution or institutions.

(g) Paragraphs (a) and (e) ~~shall~~ apply beginning the Sunday of the week that there is a reasonable assurance of employment.

(h) Employment with multiple education institutions ~~shall~~ must be aggregated for purposes of application of this subdivision.

(i) If all of the applicant's employment with any educational institution or institutions during the prior academic year or term consisted of on-call employment, and the applicant has a reasonable assurance of any on-call employment with any educational institution or institutions for the following academic year or term, it ~~shall is~~ not ~~be~~ considered substantially less favorable employment.

(j) Paragraph (a) ~~shall~~ also apply applies to the period between two regular but not successive terms.

(k) A "reasonable assurance" may be written, oral, implied, or established by custom or practice.

(l) An "educational institution" is an educational entity operated by Minnesota or a political subdivision or an instrumentality thereof, or an educational organization described in United States Code, title 26, section 501(c)(3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code, and exempt from income tax under section 501(a).

Sec. 55. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.085, subdivision 8, is amended to read:

Subd. 8. **Services for school contractors.** (a) Wage credits from an employer are subject to subdivision 7, if:

(1) the employment was provided ~~pursuant to~~ under a contract between the employer and an elementary or secondary school; and

(2) the contract was for services that the elementary or secondary school could have had performed by its employees.

(b) Wage credits from an employer are not subject to subdivision 7 if:

(1) those wage credits were earned by an employee of a private employer performing work ~~pursuant to~~ under a contract between the employer and an elementary or secondary school; and

(2) the employment was related to food services provided to the school by the employer.

Sec. 56. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.085, subdivision 11, is amended to read:

Subd. 11. **Athletes and coaches.** Unemployment benefits ~~shall~~ must not be paid to an applicant on the basis of any wage credits from employment that consists of coaching or participating in sports or athletic events or training or preparing to participate for any week during the period between two successive sport seasons, or similar periods, if:

(1) the applicant was so employed in the prior season or similar period, and

(2) there is a reasonable assurance that the applicant will be so employed in the following season or similar period.

Sec. 57. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.085, subdivision 12, is amended to read:

Subd. 12. **Aliens.** (a) An alien ~~shall be~~ is ineligible for unemployment benefits for any week the alien is not authorized to work in the United States under federal law. Information from the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services ~~shall be~~ is considered conclusive, absent specific evidence that the information was erroneous. ~~Pursuant to~~ Under the existing agreement between the United States and Canada, this paragraph ~~shall~~ does not apply to an applicant who is a Canadian citizen and has returned to and is living in Canada each week unemployment benefits are requested.

(b) Unemployment benefits ~~shall~~ must not be paid on the basis of wage credits earned by an alien unless the alien (1) was lawfully admitted for permanent residence at the time of the employment, (2) was lawfully present for the purposes of the employment, or (3) was permanently residing in the United States under color of law at the time of the employment.

(c) Any information required of applicants applying for unemployment benefits to determine eligibility because of their alien status ~~shall~~ must be required from all applicants.

Sec. 58. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.085, subdivision 13, is amended to read:

Subd. 13. **Suspension from employment.** (a) An applicant who has been suspended from employment without pay for 30 calendar days or less, as a result of employment misconduct as defined under section 268.095, subdivision 6, ~~shall be~~ is ineligible for unemployment benefits beginning the Sunday of the week that the applicant was suspended and continuing for the duration of the suspension.

(b) A suspension from employment without pay for more than 30 calendar days ~~shall be~~ is considered a discharge from employment under section 268.095, subdivision 5.

(c) A suspension from employment with pay, regardless of duration, ~~shall~~ is not ~~be~~ considered a separation from employment and the applicant ~~shall be~~ is ineligible for unemployment benefits for the duration of the suspension with pay.

Sec. 59. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.085, subdivision 13a, is amended to read:

Subd. 13a. **Leave of absence.** (a) An applicant on a voluntary leave of absence ~~shall be~~ is ineligible for unemployment benefits for the duration of the leave of absence. An applicant on an involuntary leave of absence ~~shall~~ is not ~~be~~ ineligible under this subdivision.

A leave of absence is voluntary when work that the applicant can then perform is available with the applicant's employer but the applicant chooses not to work. A medical leave of absence ~~shall~~ is not ~~be~~ presumed to be voluntary.

(b) A period of vacation requested by the applicant, paid or unpaid, ~~shall be~~ is considered a voluntary leave of absence. A vacation period assigned by an employer under: (1) a uniform vacation shutdown; (2) a collective bargaining agreement; or (3) an established employer policy, ~~shall be~~ is considered an involuntary leave of absence.

(c) A voluntary leave of absence ~~shall~~ is not ~~be~~ considered a quit and an involuntary leave of absence ~~shall~~ is not ~~be~~ considered a discharge from employment for purposes of section 268.095.

(d) An applicant who is on a paid leave of absence, whether the leave of absence is voluntary or involuntary, ~~shall be~~ is ineligible for unemployment benefits for the duration of the leave.

(e) This subdivision ~~shall apply~~ applies to a leave of absence from a base period employer, an employer during the period between the end of the base period and the effective date of the benefit account, or an employer during the benefit year.

Sec. 60. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.085, subdivision 13b, is amended to read:

Subd. 13b. **Labor dispute.** (a) An applicant who has stopped working because of a labor dispute at the establishment where the applicant is employed ~~shall be~~ is ineligible for unemployment benefits:

(1) until the end of the calendar week that the labor dispute was in active progress if the applicant is participating in or directly interested in the labor dispute; or

(2) until the end of the calendar week that the labor dispute began if the applicant is not participating in or directly interested in the labor dispute.

Participation includes any failure or refusal by an applicant, voluntarily or involuntarily, to accept and perform available and customary work at the establishment.

(b) An applicant who has stopped working because of a jurisdictional controversy between two or more labor organizations at the establishment where the applicant is employed ~~shall be~~ is ineligible for unemployment benefits until the end of the calendar week that the jurisdictional controversy was in progress.

(c) An applicant ~~shall~~ is not ~~be~~ ineligible for unemployment benefits under this subdivision if:

(1) the applicant stops working because of an employer's intentional failure to observe the terms of the safety and health section of a union contract or failure to comply with an official citation for a violation of federal or state laws involving occupational safety and health;

(2) the applicant stops working because of a lockout; or

(3) the applicant is discharged ~~prior to~~ before the beginning of a labor dispute.

(d) A quit from employment by the applicant during the time that the labor dispute is in active progress at the establishment ~~shall~~ does not terminate the applicant's participation in or direct interest in the labor dispute for purposes of this subdivision.

(e) For the purpose of this subdivision, the term "labor dispute" ~~shall have~~ has the same definition as provided in section 179.01, subdivision 7.

Sec. 61. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.085, subdivision 16, is amended to read:

Subd. 16. **Actively seeking suitable employment defined.** (a) "Actively seeking suitable employment" means those reasonable, diligent efforts an individual in similar circumstances would make if genuinely interested in obtaining suitable employment under the existing conditions in the labor market area. Limiting the search to positions that are not available or are above the applicant's training, experience, and qualifications is not "actively seeking suitable employment."

(b) To be considered "actively seeking suitable employment" an applicant ~~shall~~ must, when reasonable, contact those employers from whom the applicant was laid off ~~due to~~ because of lack of work and request suitable employment.

(c) If reasonable prospects of suitable employment in the applicant's usual or customary occupation do not exist, the applicant must actively seek other suitable employment to be considered "actively seeking suitable employment." This applies to an applicant who is seasonally unemployed.

(d) An applicant who is seeking employment only through a union is not actively seeking suitable employment unless the applicant is in an occupation where it is required by union rule that all the hiring in that locality is done through the union or that all members are restricted to obtaining employment among signatory contractors in the construction industry. The applicant must be a union member in good standing, registered with the union for employment, and in compliance with other union rules to be considered "actively seeking suitable employment."

Sec. 62. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.086, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Active benefit account.** (a) A benefit account ~~shall be~~ is considered active only when an applicant files continued biweekly requests for unemployment benefits in the manner and within the time periods prescribed. A benefit account ~~shall be~~ is considered inactive if an applicant stops filing a continued biweekly request or fails to file a continued biweekly request within the time period required. The benefit account ~~shall be~~ is considered inactive as of the Sunday following the last week or biweekly period for which a continued biweekly request has been timely filed.

(b) A benefit account that is inactive ~~shall be~~ is reactivated the Sunday of the week that the applicant makes a contact with the department to do so, in the manner prescribed by the commissioner for reactivating that applicant's benefit account. Upon specific request of an applicant, a benefit account may be reactivated effective up to two weeks ~~prior to~~ before the week the applicant made contact with the department to reactivate.

Sec. 63. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.086, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Methods for filing continued biweekly requests for unemployment benefits.** (a) The commissioner shall designate to each applicant one of the following methods for filing a continued biweekly request:

- (1) by electronic transmission under subdivision 5;
- (2) by mail under subdivision 6; or
- (3) by in-person interview under subdivision 7.

(b) The method designated by the commissioner ~~shall be~~ is the only method allowed for filing a continued biweekly request by that applicant. An applicant may ask that one of the other allowed methods be designated and the commissioner shall consider inconvenience to the applicant as well as administrative capacity in determining whether to allow an applicant to change the designated method for filing a continued biweekly request for unemployment benefits.

Sec. 64. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.086, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

Subd. 5. **Continued biweekly request for unemployment benefits by electronic transmission.** (a) A continued biweekly request for unemployment benefits by electronic transmission ~~shall~~ must be filed to that electronic mail address or Internet address prescribed by the commissioner for that applicant. In order to constitute a continued biweekly request, all information asked for, including information authenticating that the applicant is sending the transmission, must be provided in the format required. If all of the information asked for is not provided, the communication ~~shall~~ does not constitute a continued biweekly request for unemployment benefits.

The electronic transmission communication must be filed on the date required for the applicant for filing a continued biweekly request by electronic transmission.

(b) If the electronic transmission continued biweekly request is not filed on the date required, a continued biweekly request by electronic transmission ~~shall~~ must be accepted if the applicant files the continued biweekly request by electronic transmission within 14 days following the week in which the date required occurred. If the continued biweekly request by electronic transmission is not filed within 14 days following the week in which the date required occurred, the electronic continued biweekly request ~~shall~~ must not be

accepted and the applicant ~~shall be~~ is ineligible for unemployment benefits for the period covered by the continued biweekly request and the benefit account ~~shall be~~ is considered inactive, unless the applicant shows good cause for failing to file the continued biweekly request by electronic transmission within the time period required.

Sec. 65. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.086, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

Subd. 6. **Continued biweekly request for unemployment benefits by mail.** (a) A continued biweekly request for unemployment benefits by mail ~~shall~~ must be on a form prescribed by the commissioner. The form, in order to constitute a continued biweekly request, must be totally completed and signed by the applicant.

The form must be filed on the date required for the applicant for filing a continued biweekly request by mail, in an envelope with postage prepaid thereon, and sent to the address required by the commissioner for that applicant.

(b) If the mail continued biweekly request for unemployment benefits is not filed on the date required, a continued biweekly request ~~shall~~ must be accepted if the form is filed by mail within 14 days following the week in which the date required occurred. If the form is not filed within 14 days following the week in which the date required occurred, the form ~~shall~~ will not be accepted and the applicant ~~shall be~~ is ineligible for unemployment benefits for the period covered by the continued biweekly request for unemployment benefits and the benefit account ~~shall be~~ is considered inactive, unless the applicant shows good cause for failing to file the form by mail within the time period required.

(c) If the applicant has been designated to file a continued biweekly request for unemployment benefits by mail, an applicant may submit the form by facsimile transmission on the day otherwise required for mailing, or within 14 days following the week in which the date required occurred. A form submitted by facsimile transmission ~~shall~~ must be sent only to the telephone number assigned for that purpose.

(d) An applicant who has been designated to file a continued biweekly request by mail may personally deliver a continued biweekly request form only to the location to which the form was otherwise required to be mailed.

Sec. 66. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.086, subdivision 8, is amended to read:

Subd. 8. **Good cause.** A continued biweekly request for unemployment benefits that is not filed within the time periods required by this section ~~shall~~ may be accepted only for those weeks that the applicant has "good cause" for not filing within the time periods required.

Sec. 67. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.086, subdivision 9, is amended to read:

Subd. 9. **Good cause defined.** "Good cause" for purposes of this section is a compelling substantial reason that would have prevented a reasonable person acting with due diligence from filing a continued biweekly request for unemployment benefits within the time periods required.

"Good cause" ~~shall~~ does not include forgetfulness, loss of the continued biweekly request form, having returned to work, or inability to file a continued biweekly request for unemployment benefits by the method designated if the applicant was aware of the inability and did not make diligent effort to have the method of filing a continued biweekly request changed by the commissioner. "Good cause" ~~shall~~ does not include

having previously made an attempt to file a continued biweekly request for unemployment benefits but where the communication was not considered a continued biweekly request because the applicant failed to submit all required information.

Sec. 68. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.087, is amended to read:

268.087 UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS DUE DECEASED PERSONS.

If unemployment benefits are due and payable at the time of an applicant's death, those benefits ~~may~~ must, upon application, be paid to the personal representative of the estate of the deceased. In the event that no personal representative is appointed, the unemployment benefits ~~may~~ must, upon application be paid in the following order: (1) the surviving spouse, (2) the surviving child or children, or (3) the surviving parent or parents.

An individual seeking payment ~~shall~~ must complete an application prescribed by the commissioner and the payment of unemployment benefits ~~shall discharge~~ discharges the obligations to the applicant and no other individual ~~shall~~ may claim or assert any right to those unemployment benefits.

Sec. 69. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.095, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Quit defined.** (a) A quit from employment occurs when the decision to end the employment was, at the time the employment ended, the employee's.

(b) An employee who has been notified that the employee will be discharged in the future, who chooses to end the employment while employment in any capacity is still available, ~~shall be~~ is considered to have quit the employment.

(c) An employee who seeks to withdraw a previously submitted notice of quitting ~~shall be~~ is considered to have quit the employment if the employer does not agree that the notice may be withdrawn.

(d) An applicant who, within five calendar days after completion of a suitable temporary job assignment from a staffing service employer, (1) fails without good cause to affirmatively request an additional job assignment, or (2) refuses without good cause an additional suitable job assignment offered, ~~shall be~~ is considered to have quit employment.

This paragraph ~~shall apply~~ applies only if, at the time of beginning of employment with the staffing service employer, the applicant signed and was provided a copy of a separate document written in clear and concise language that informed the applicant of this paragraph and that unemployment benefits may be affected.

For purposes of this paragraph, "good cause" ~~shall be~~ is a reason that is significant and would compel an average, reasonable worker, who would otherwise want an additional temporary job assignment with the staffing service employer, (1) to fail to contact the staffing service employer, or (2) to refuse an offered assignment.

For purposes of this paragraph, a "staffing service employer" is an employer whose business involves employing individuals directly for the purpose of furnishing temporary job assignment workers to clients of the staffing service.

Sec. 70. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.095, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Good reason caused by the employer defined.** (a) A good reason caused by the employer for quitting is a reason:

(1) that is directly related to the employment and for which the employer is responsible;

(2) that is adverse to the worker; and

(3) that would compel an average, reasonable worker to quit and become unemployed rather than remaining in the employment.

(b) The analysis required in paragraph (a) must be applied to the specific facts of each case.

(c) If an applicant was subjected to adverse working conditions by the employer, the applicant must complain to the employer and give the employer a reasonable opportunity to correct the adverse working conditions before that may be considered a good reason caused by the employer for quitting.

(d) A reason for quitting employment ~~shall is~~ not ~~be~~ considered a good reason caused by the employer for quitting if the reason for quitting occurred because of the applicant's employment misconduct.

(e) Notification of discharge in the future, including a layoff ~~due to~~ because of lack of work, ~~shall is~~ not ~~be~~ considered a good reason caused by the employer for quitting.

(f) An applicant has a good reason caused by the employer for quitting if it results from sexual harassment of which the employer was aware, or should have been aware, and the employer failed to take timely and appropriate action. Sexual harassment means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical contact or other conduct or communication of a sexual nature when:

(1) the applicant's submission to the conduct or communication is made a term or condition of the employment;

(2) the applicant's submission to or rejection of the conduct or communication is the basis for decisions affecting employment; or

(3) the conduct or communication has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an applicant's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

(g) The definition of a good reason caused by the employer for quitting employment provided by this subdivision ~~shall be~~ is exclusive and no other definition ~~shall apply~~ applies.

Sec. 71. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.095, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

Subd. 5. **Discharge defined.** (a) A discharge from employment occurs when any words or actions by an employer would lead a reasonable employee to believe that the employer will no longer allow the employee to work for the employer in any capacity. A layoff ~~due to~~ because of lack of work ~~shall be~~ is considered a discharge. A suspension from employment without pay of more than 30 calendar days ~~shall be~~ is considered a discharge.

(b) An employee who gives notice of intention to quit the employment and is not allowed by the employer to work the entire notice period ~~shall be~~ is considered discharged from the employment as of the date the employer will no longer allow the employee to work. If the discharge occurs within 30 calendar days ~~prior to~~ before the intended date of quitting, then, as of the intended date of quitting, the separation from employment ~~shall be~~ is considered a quit from employment subject to subdivision 1.

Sec. 72. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.095, subdivision 6a, is amended to read:

Subd. 6a. **Aggravated employment misconduct defined.** (a) For the purpose of this section, "aggravated employment misconduct" means:

(1) the commission of any act, on the job or off the job, that would amount to a gross misdemeanor or felony if the act substantially interfered with the employment or had a significant adverse effect on the employment; or

(2) for an employee of a facility as defined in section 626.5572, aggravated employment misconduct includes an act of patient or resident abuse, financial exploitation, or recurring or serious neglect, as defined in section 626.5572 and applicable rules.

(b) If an applicant is convicted of a gross misdemeanor or felony for the same act for which the applicant was discharged, it is aggravated employment misconduct if the act substantially interfered with the employment or had a significant adverse effect on the employment.

(c) The definition of aggravated employment misconduct provided by this subdivision ~~shall be~~ is exclusive and no other definition ~~shall apply~~ applies.

Sec. 73. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.095, subdivision 11, is amended to read:

Subd. 11. **Application.** (a) Section 268.085, subdivision 13c, and this section ~~shall apply~~ applies to all covered employment, full time or part time, temporary or of limited duration, permanent or of indefinite duration, that occurred in Minnesota during the base period, the period between the end of the base period and the effective date of the benefit account, or the benefit year, except as provided for in subdivision 1, clause (5).

(b) Paragraph (a) ~~shall~~ also apply applies to employment covered under an unemployment insurance program of any other state or established by an act of Congress.

Sec. 74. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.103, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **In commissioner's discretion.** The commissioner shall have the discretion to allow an appeal to be filed by electronic transmission. If the commissioner allows an appeal to be filed by electronic transmission, that ~~shall~~ must be clearly set out on the determination or decision subject to appeal.

The commissioner may restrict the manner, format, and conditions under which an appeal by electronic transmission may be filed. Any restrictions as to days, hours, telephone number, electronic address, or other conditions, ~~shall~~ must be clearly set out on the determination or decision subject to appeal.

All information requested by the commissioner when an appeal is filed by electronic transmission must be supplied or the communication ~~shall~~ does not constitute an appeal.

Sec. 75. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.103, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Applicant's appeal by mail.** (a) The commissioner must allow an applicant to file an appeal by mail even if an appeal by electronic transmission is allowed.

(b) A written statement delivered or mailed to the department that could reasonably be interpreted to mean that an involved applicant is in disagreement with a specific determination or decision ~~shall be~~ is considered an appeal. No specific words need be used for the written statement to be considered an appeal.

Sec. 76. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.105, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Withdrawal of appeal.** (a) Any appeal that is pending before an unemployment law judge may be withdrawn by the appealing person, or an authorized representative of that person, upon filing of a notice of withdrawal.

(b) The appeal ~~shall~~ must, by order, be dismissed if a notice of withdrawal is filed, unless an unemployment law judge directs that further adjudication is required for a proper result.

(c) A notice of withdrawal may be filed by mail or by electronic transmission.

Sec. 77. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.105, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

Subd. 5. **Use of evidence; data privacy.** (a) All testimony at any evidentiary hearing conducted ~~pursuant to~~ under subdivision 1 ~~shall~~ must be recorded. A copy of any recorded testimony and exhibits offered or received into evidence at the hearing ~~shall~~ must, upon request, be furnished to a party at no cost during the time period for filing a request for reconsideration or while a request for reconsideration is pending.

(b) Regardless of any provision of law to the contrary, if recorded testimony and exhibits received into evidence at the evidentiary hearing are not requested during the time period for filing a request for reconsideration, or while a request for reconsideration is pending, that testimony and other evidence ~~shall~~ may later be made available only ~~pursuant to~~ under a district court order. A subpoena ~~shall~~ is not be considered a district court order.

(c) Testimony obtained under subdivision 1, may not be used or considered for any purpose, including impeachment, in any civil, administrative, or contractual proceeding, except by a local, state, or federal human rights agency with enforcement powers, unless the proceeding is initiated by the department.

Sec. 78. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.105, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

Subd. 6. **Representation; fees.** (a) In any proceeding under subdivision 1 or 2, an applicant or involved employer may be represented by any agent.

(b) Except for services provided by an attorney-at-law, an applicant ~~shall~~ may not be charged fees, costs, or disbursements of any kind in a proceeding before an unemployment law judge, the Minnesota Court of Appeals, or the Supreme Court of Minnesota.

Sec. 79. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.105, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

Subd. 7. **Judicial review.** (a) The Minnesota Court of Appeals shall, by writ of certiorari to the department, review the unemployment law judge's decision, provided a petition for the writ is filed with the court and a copy is served upon the unemployment law judge or the commissioner and any other involved party within 30 calendar days of the sending of the unemployment law judge's order under subdivision 2.

(b) Any employer petitioning for a writ of certiorari ~~shall~~ must pay to the court the required filing fee and upon the service of the writ ~~shall~~ must furnish a cost bond to the department in accordance with the Rules of Civil Appellate Procedure. If the employer requests a written transcript of the testimony received at the evidentiary hearing conducted ~~pursuant to~~ under subdivision 1, the employer ~~shall~~ must pay to the department the cost of preparing the transcript. That money ~~shall~~ is credited to the administration account.

(c) Upon issuance by the Minnesota Court of Appeals of a writ of certiorari as a result of an applicant's petition, the department ~~shall~~ must furnish to the applicant at no cost a written transcript of any testimony received at the evidentiary hearing conducted ~~pursuant to~~ under subdivision 1, and, if requested, a copy of all exhibits entered into evidence. No filing fee or cost bond ~~shall be~~ is required of an applicant petitioning the Minnesota Court of Appeals for a writ of certiorari.

(d) The Minnesota Court of Appeals may affirm the decision of the unemployment law judge or remand the case for further proceedings; or it may reverse or modify the decision if the substantial rights of the petitioner may have been prejudiced because the findings, inferences, conclusion, or decision are:

- (1) in violation of constitutional provisions;
- (2) in excess of the statutory authority or jurisdiction of the department;
- (3) made upon unlawful procedure;
- (4) affected by other error of law;
- (5) unsupported by substantial evidence in view of the entire record as submitted; or
- (6) arbitrary or capricious.

(e) The department ~~shall be~~ is considered the primary responding party to any judicial action involving an unemployment law judge's decision. The department may be represented by an attorney who is an employee of the department.

Sec. 80. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.115, is amended to read:

268.115 EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS.

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** The terms used in this section ~~shall~~ have the following meaning:

(1) "Extended unemployment benefit period" means a period that lasts for a minimum of 13 weeks and that:

- (i) Begins with the third week after there is a state "on" indicator; and
- (ii) Ends with the third week after there is a state "off" indicator.

No extended unemployment benefit period may begin before the 14th week following the end of a prior extended unemployment benefit period.

(2) There is a "state 'on' indicator" for a week if:

- (i) for that week and the prior 12 weeks, the rate of insured unemployment:
 - (a) equaled or exceeded 120 percent of the average of the rates for the corresponding 13-week period ending in each of the prior two calendar years, and was five percent or more; or
 - (b) equaled or exceeded six percent; or
- (ii) The United States Secretary of Labor determines that the average rate of seasonally adjusted total unemployment in Minnesota for the most recent three months for which data is published equals or exceeds 6.5 percent and this rate equals or exceeds 110 percent of the rate of the corresponding three-month period in either of the prior two calendar years.

(3) There is a "state 'off' indicator" for a week if:

(i) under clause (2)(i), for that week and the prior 12 weeks, the requirements for a "state 'on' indicator" are not satisfied; or

(ii) under clause (2)(ii) the requirements for a "state 'on' indicator" are not satisfied.

(4) "Rate of insured unemployment," means the percentage derived by dividing the average weekly number of applicants filing continued biweekly requests for regular unemployment benefits in the most recent 13-week period by the average monthly covered employment for the first four of the last six completed calendar quarters before the end of that 13-week period.

(5) "Regular unemployment benefits" means unemployment benefits available to an applicant other than extended unemployment benefits and additional unemployment benefits.

(6) "Eligibility period" for an applicant means the period consisting of the weeks remaining in the applicant's benefit year within the extended unemployment benefit period and, if the benefit year ends within the extended unemployment benefit period, any weeks in the extended unemployment benefit period.

(7) "Exhaustee" means an applicant who, in the eligibility period:

~~(a)~~ (i) the benefit year having not expired has received the maximum amount of regular unemployment benefits that were available under section 268.07; or

~~(b)~~ (ii) the benefit year having expired, has insufficient wage credits to establish a new benefit account; and

~~(c)~~ has no right to any type of unemployment benefits under ~~the law of~~ any other state or ~~under~~ federal laws and is not receiving unemployment benefits under the law of Canada.

Subd. 3. **Requirements for extended unemployment benefits.** If an extended unemployment benefit period is in effect, an applicant ~~shall be~~ is paid extended unemployment benefits from the trust fund for any week in the applicant's eligibility period if the applicant:

(1) is an "exhaustee";

(2) has satisfied the same requirements as those for regular unemployment benefits under section 268.069;

(3) has wage credits of not less than 40 times the weekly unemployment benefit amount; and

(4) is not subject to a denial of extended unemployment benefits under subdivision 9.

Subd. 4. **Weekly extended unemployment benefit amount.** The weekly extended unemployment benefit amount ~~shall be~~ is the same as the weekly unemployment benefit amount of regular unemployment benefits.

Subd. 5. **Maximum amount of extended unemployment benefits.** The maximum amount of extended unemployment benefits available to an applicant ~~shall be~~ is 50 percent of the maximum amount of regular unemployment benefits available in the benefit year, rounded down to the next lower whole dollar. If the total rate of unemployment computed under subdivision 1, clause (2)(ii), equaled or exceeded eight percent, the

maximum amount of extended unemployment benefits available ~~shall be~~ is 80 percent of the maximum amount of regular unemployment benefits available in the benefit year.

Subd. 6. **Public announcement.** Whenever an extended unemployment benefit period is to begin as a result of a state "on" indicator, or an extended unemployment benefit period is to end as a result of a state "off" indicator the commissioner shall make an appropriate public announcement.

Subd. 7. **Federal law.** This section is enacted to conform to the requirements of United States Code, title 26, section 3304, the Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970 as amended and the applicable federal regulations.

Subd. 8. **Interstate applicants.** An applicant residing in a state other than Minnesota shall be eligible for only the first two weeks of extended unemployment benefits if the applicant's benefit account was established ~~pursuant to~~ under the interstate benefit payment plan and no extended unemployment benefit period is in effect for the week in that state.

Subd. 9. **Denial provisions.** (a) An applicant ~~shall be~~ is denied extended unemployment benefits for any week in the applicant's eligibility period if during that week the applicant failed to accept any offer of suitable employment, failed to apply for any suitable employment that the applicant was referred to by the commissioner, or failed to actively seek suitable employment.

The denial ~~shall continue~~ continues until the applicant has been employed in covered employment in each of four subsequent weeks, whether or not consecutive, and had earnings from that covered employment of not less than four times the applicant's weekly unemployment benefit amount.

(b) For the purpose of this subdivision "suitable employment" means any employment that is within the applicant's capabilities and that has a gross average weekly wage that exceeds the applicant's weekly unemployment benefit amount. The employment must pay wages not less than the higher of the federal minimum wage without regard to any exemption, or the applicable state minimum wage.

(c) No applicant ~~shall~~ may be denied extended unemployment benefits for failure to accept an offer of or apply for any suitable employment if:

(1) the position was not offered to the applicant in writing;

(2) the position was not listed with the job service; or

(3) the applicant furnishes satisfactory evidence that prospects for obtaining employment in the applicant's customary occupation within a reasonably short period are good. If the evidence is satisfactory, the determination of whether any employment is suitable ~~shall be~~ is made in accordance with the definition of suitable employment in section 268.035, subdivision 23a.

(d) For the purpose of this subdivision an applicant is "actively seeking suitable employment" only if the applicant has engaged in a systematic and sustained effort to obtain employment, and the applicant furnishes tangible evidence of that effort.

Subd. 10. **Job service referral.** The job service ~~shall~~ must refer any applicant who is filing continued biweekly requests for extended unemployment benefits to any employment that is suitable under subdivision 9.

Sec. 81. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.125, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **Weekly unemployment benefit amount.** An applicant's weekly additional unemployment benefit amount ~~shall be~~ is the same as the applicant's weekly unemployment benefit amount during the current benefit year under section 268.07.

Sec. 82. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.125, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

Subd. 5. **Maximum amount of unemployment benefits.** The maximum amount of additional unemployment benefits available in the applicant's benefit year ~~shall be~~ is one-half of the applicant's maximum amount of regular unemployment benefits available under section 268.07, subdivision 2, rounded down to the next lower whole dollar. Extended unemployment benefits paid and unemployment benefits paid under any federal law other than regular unemployment benefits ~~shall~~ must be deducted from the maximum amount of additional unemployment benefits available.

Sec. 83. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.135, is amended to read:

268.135 SHARED WORK PLAN.

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** For purposes of this section:

(1) "Affected employee" means an employee who was continuously employed as a member of the affected group, for at least six months, on a full-time basis, ~~prior to~~ before submission of the shared work plan.

(2) "Affected group" means five or more employees designated by the employer to participate in a shared work plan.

(3) "Shared work plan" or "plan" means an employer's plan, submitted in a manner and format prescribed by the commissioner, under which a group of employees whose normal weekly hours of work are reduced, in order to prevent employees from being laid off ~~due to~~ because of lack of work.

(4) "Normal weekly hours of work" means the number of hours in a week that the employee normally would work for the shared work employer or 40 hours, whichever is less.

Subd. 2. **Participation.** (a) An employer wishing to participate in the shared work benefit program ~~shall~~ must submit a shared work plan to the commissioner in a manner and format prescribed for approval. The commissioner may approve a shared work plan only if it:

(1) specifies the employees in the affected group;

(2) applies to only one affected group;

(3) includes a certified statement by the employer that each employee specified in the affected group is an affected employee;

(4) includes a certified statement by the employer that for the duration of the plan the reduction in normal weekly hours of work of the employees in the affected group is instead of layoffs that otherwise would result in at least as large a reduction in the total normal weekly hours of work;

(5) specifies an expiration date that is no more than one year from the date the employer submits the plan for approval;

(6) specifies that fringe benefits, such as health and retirement, available to the employees in the affected group are not reduced beyond the percentage of reduction in hours of work; and

(7) is approved in writing by the collective bargaining agent for each collective bargaining agreement that covers any employee in the affected group.

(b) The commissioner shall set the beginning and ending dates of an approved shared work plan.

(c) The commissioner shall send to the employer a determination, by mail or electronic transmission, approving or disapproving the plan within 15 calendar days of its receipt. Determinations are final.

(d) Disapproval of a plan may be reconsidered at the discretion of the commissioner. Approval of a shared work plan may be revoked if the approval was based, in whole or in part, upon information that was false or misleading.

Subd. 3. **Eligibility.** (a) Regardless of any other provision, an applicant is eligible to receive shared work benefits with respect to any week if:

(1) during the week the applicant is employed as a member of an affected group in a plan that was approved ~~prior to~~ before the week and is in effect for the week; and

(2) during the week the normal weekly hours of work were reduced, in accordance with the plan, at least 20 percent but not more than 40 percent, with a corresponding reduction in wages.

(b) Shared work benefits ~~shall~~ may not be paid to an applicant beyond one benefit year.

(c) The total amount of regular unemployment benefits and shared work benefits paid to an applicant in a benefit year ~~shall~~ may not exceed the maximum amount of regular unemployment benefits available.

(d) An otherwise eligible applicant ~~shall~~ may not be denied shared work benefits because of the application of any provision relating to availability for employment, active search for employment, or refusal to apply for or accept suitable employment from other than the applicant's shared work employer.

Subd. 4. **Weekly benefit amount.** (a) An applicant who is eligible for shared work benefits ~~shall be~~ is paid an amount equal to the regular weekly unemployment benefit amount multiplied by the nearest full percentage of reduction of the applicant's regular weekly hours of work as set in the plan. The benefit payment, if not a whole dollar ~~shall~~ must be rounded down to the next lower whole dollar.

(b) The deductible earnings provisions of section 268.085, subdivision 5, ~~shall~~ must not apply to earnings from the shared work employer of an applicant eligible for shared work benefits unless the resulting amount would be less than the regular weekly unemployment benefit amount the applicant would otherwise be eligible for without regard to shared work benefits.

(c) An applicant ~~shall is not be~~ eligible for shared work benefits for any week that employment is performed for the shared work employer in excess of the reduced hours set forth in the plan.

Sec. 84. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.145, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Notification.** (a) Upon filing an application for unemployment benefits, the applicant ~~shall~~ must be informed that:

- (1) unemployment benefits are subject to federal and state income tax;
- (2) there are requirements for filing estimated tax payments;
- (3) the applicant may elect to have federal income tax withheld from unemployment benefits;
- (4) if the applicant elects to have federal income tax withheld, the applicant may, in addition, elect to have Minnesota state income tax withheld; and
- (5) at any time during the benefit year the applicant may change a prior election.

(b) If an applicant elects to have federal income tax withheld, the commissioner shall deduct ten percent for federal income tax, rounded down to the next lower whole dollar. If an applicant also elects to have Minnesota state income tax withheld, the commissioner shall make an additional five percent deduction for state income tax, rounded down to the next lower whole dollar. Any amounts deducted or offset ~~pursuant to~~ under sections 268.155, 268.18, and 268.184 have priority over any amounts deducted under this section. Federal income tax withholding has priority over state income tax withholding.

(c) An election to have income tax withheld ~~shall~~ may not be retroactive and ~~shall~~ only ~~apply~~ applies to unemployment benefits paid after the election.

Sec. 85. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.145, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Transfer of funds.** The amount of any unemployment benefits deducted under this section ~~shall remain~~ remains in the trust fund until transferred to the federal Internal Revenue Service, or the Department of Revenue, as an income tax payment on behalf of the applicant.

Sec. 86. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.145, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Correction of errors.** Any error that resulted in underwithholding or overwithholding under this section ~~shall~~ will not be corrected retroactively.

Sec. 87. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.155, is amended to read:

268.155 CHILD SUPPORT DEDUCTED FROM UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS.

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** As used in this section:

(1) "Child support obligations" means obligations that are being enforced by a child support agency ~~pursuant to~~ in accordance with a plan described in United States Code, title 42, section 454, of the Social Security Act that has been approved by the secretary of health and human services under part D of title IV of the Social Security Act. This ~~shall~~ does not include any type of spousal maintenance or foster care payments; and

(2) "Child support agency" means the public agency responsible for child support enforcement.

Subd. 2. **Notice upon application.** In an application for unemployment benefits, the applicant ~~shall~~ must disclose if child support obligations are owed and, if so, in what state

and county. If child support obligations are owed, the commissioner shall, if the applicant establishes a benefit account, notify the child support agency.

Subd. 3. **Withholding of unemployment benefits.** The commissioner shall deduct and withhold from any unemployment benefits payable to an applicant who owes child support obligations:

(1) the amount required ~~pursuant to~~ under a proper order of a court or administrative agency; or

(2) if clause (1) is not applicable, the amount determined ~~pursuant to~~ under an agreement under United States Code, title 42, section 454 (20) (B) (i), of the Social Security Act; or

(3) if clause (1) or (2) is not applicable, the amount specified by the applicant.

Subd. 4. **Payment.** Any amount deducted and withheld ~~shall~~ must be paid to the child support agency, but ~~shall~~ will for all purposes be treated as if it were paid to the applicant as unemployment benefits and paid by the applicant to the child support agency in satisfaction of the applicant's child support obligations.

Subd. 5. **Payment of costs.** The child support agency ~~shall~~ must pay the costs incurred by the commissioner in the implementation and administration of this section and sections 518A.50 and 518A.53.

Sec. 88. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.18, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

Subd. 5. **Remedies.** (a) Any method undertaken to recover an overpayment of unemployment benefits, including any penalties and interest, ~~shall~~ is not ~~be~~ considered an election of a method of recovery.

(b) Intervention or lack thereof, in whole or in part, in a workers' compensation matter under section 176.361 ~~shall~~ is not ~~be~~ considered an election of a remedy and ~~shall~~ does not prevent the commissioner from determining any unemployment benefits overpaid under subdivision 1 or 2 or taking action under section 268.182.

Sec. 89. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.18, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

Subd. 6. **Collection of overpayments.** (a) The commissioner may not compromise the amount that has been determined overpaid under this section including penalties and interest.

(b) The commissioner ~~shall~~ has ~~have~~ discretion regarding the recovery of any overpayment under subdivision 1. Regardless of any law to the contrary, the commissioner ~~shall~~ is not ~~be~~ required to refer any amount determined overpaid under subdivision 1 to a public or private collection agency, including agencies of this state.

(c) Amounts determined overpaid under subdivision 1 ~~shall~~ are not ~~be~~ considered a "debt" to the state of Minnesota for purposes of any reporting requirements to the commissioner of finance.

(d) A pending appeal under section 268.105 ~~shall~~ does not suspend the assessment of interest, penalties, or collection of an overpayment under this section.

(e) Section 16A.626 applies to the repayment by an applicant of any overpayment, penalty, or interest under this section.

Sec. 90. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.182, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Criminal penalties.** Whoever obtains, or attempts to obtain, or aids or abets any individual to obtain by means of an intentional false statement or representation, by intentional concealment of a material fact, or by impersonation or other fraudulent means, unemployment benefits that the individual is not entitled or unemployment benefits greater than the individual is entitled under this chapter, or under the law of any state or of the federal government, either personally or for any other individual, is guilty of theft and ~~shall~~ must be sentenced pursuant to under section 609.52.

Sec. 91. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.186, is amended to read:

268.186 RECORDS; AUDITS.

(a) Each employer ~~shall~~ must keep true and accurate records for the periods of time and containing the information the commissioner may require by rule. For the purpose of administering this chapter, the commissioner has the power to audit, examine, or cause to be supplied or copied, any books, correspondence, papers, records, or memoranda that are relevant, whether the books, correspondence, papers, records, or memoranda are the property of or in the possession of the employer or any other person at any reasonable time and as often as may be necessary.

(b) Any employer that refuses to allow an audit of its records by the department, or that fails to make all necessary records available for audit in Minnesota upon request of the commissioner, may be assessed an administrative penalty of \$500. The penalty collected ~~shall be~~ is credited to the administration account to be used by the commissioner to ensure integrity in the administration of the unemployment insurance program.

(c) The commissioner may make summaries, compilations, photographs, duplications, or reproductions of any records, or reports that the commissioner considers advisable for the preservation of the information contained therein. Any summaries, compilations, photographs, duplications, or reproductions ~~shall be~~ is admissible in any proceeding under this chapter. The commissioner may duplicate records, reports, summaries, compilations, instructions, determinations, or any other written or recorded matter pertaining to the administration of this chapter.

(d) Regardless of any law to the contrary, the commissioner may provide for the destruction of any records, reports, or reproductions ~~thereof~~, or other papers that are no longer necessary for the administration of this chapter, including any required audit. In addition, the commissioner may provide for the destruction or disposition of any record, report, or other paper from which the information has been electronically captured and stored, or that has been photographed, duplicated, or reproduced.

Sec. 92. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.19, subdivision 1a, is amended to read:

Subd. 1a. **Wage detail data.** (a) Wage and employment data gathered ~~pursuant to~~ under section 268.044 may be disseminated to and used, without the consent of the subject of the data, by an agency of another state that is designated as the performance accountability and consumer information agency for that state ~~pursuant to~~ under Code of Federal Regulations, volume 20, part 663.510(c), in order to carry out the requirements of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, United States Code, title 29, sections 2842 and 2871.

(b) The commissioner may enter into a data exchange agreement with an employment and training service provider under section 116L.17, or the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, United States Code, title 29, section 2864, under which the commissioner, with the consent of the subject of the data, may furnish data on the quarterly wages paid and number of hours worked on those individuals who have received employment and training services from the provider. With the initial consent of the subject of the data, this data may be shared for up to three years after termination of the employment and training services provided to the individual without execution of an additional consent. This data ~~shall be~~ is furnished solely for the purpose of evaluating the employment and training services provided. The data subject's ability to receive service is not affected by a refusal to give consent under this paragraph. The consent form must state this fact.

Sec. 93. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.19, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Employer information; absolute privilege.** (a) Regardless of any provision of law to the contrary, an employer may provide the commissioner with information on an applicant so that the commissioner can determine an applicant's entitlement to unemployment benefits under the Minnesota Unemployment Insurance Law.

(b) The commissioner may disseminate an employer's name and address and the name and address of any employer's unemployment insurance processing agent in order to administer the Minnesota unemployment insurance program.

(c) Information obtained ~~pursuant to~~ under the Minnesota Unemployment Insurance Law, in order to determine an applicant's entitlement to unemployment benefits, ~~shall be~~ are absolutely privileged and ~~shall may~~ not be made the subject matter or the basis for any civil proceeding, administrative, or judicial.

Sec. 94. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.192, is amended to read:

268.192 PROTECTION OF RIGHTS.

Subdivision 1. **Waiver of rights void.** Any agreement by an individual to waive, release, or commute rights to unemployment benefits or any other rights under the Minnesota Unemployment Insurance Law ~~shall be~~ is void. Any agreement by an employee to pay all or any portion of an employer's taxes, ~~shall be~~ is void. No employer ~~shall may~~ directly or indirectly make or require or accept any deduction from wages to pay the employer's taxes, require or accept any waiver of any right or in any manner obstruct or impede an application or continued biweekly request for unemployment benefits. Any employer or officer or agent of any employer who violates any portion of this subdivision ~~shall is,~~ for each offense, ~~be~~ guilty of a misdemeanor.

Subd. 2. **No assignment of unemployment benefits; exemptions.** Any assignment, pledge, or encumbrance of unemployment benefits ~~shall be~~ is void. Unemployment benefits ~~shall be~~ are exempt from levy, execution, attachment, or any other remedy provided for the collection of debt. Any waiver of this subdivision ~~shall be~~ is void.

Sec. 95. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.194, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **Reimbursements.** The commissioner is authorized to make to other state or federal agencies and to receive from other state or federal agencies, reimbursements from or to the trust fund, in accordance with reciprocal arrangements entered into ~~pursuant to~~ under section 268.131.

Money received ~~pursuant to~~ under a reciprocal agreement ~~shall~~ must be placed directly in the unemployment benefit payment account of the trust fund.

Sec. 96. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.194, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

Subd. 5. **Reed Act money.** (a) Money credited to the account of Minnesota in the federal unemployment trust fund ~~pursuant to~~ under United States Code, title 42, section 1103, of the Social Security Act, also known as the Reed Act, may be requisitioned and used for (1) the payment of unemployment benefits, or (2) expenses incurred for the administration of the Minnesota unemployment insurance program ~~pursuant~~ according to a specific appropriation by the legislature. Any money used for the payment of unemployment benefits may be restored for appropriation and use for administrative expenses upon request of the governor to the United States Secretary of Labor.

(b) Reed Act money may be used for expenses in the administration of the Minnesota unemployment insurance program provided that the expenses are incurred and the money is requisitioned after the enactment of an appropriation law that:

(1) specifies the amounts and the purposes for which the money is appropriated;

(2) limits the period within which the money may be obligated to a period ending not more than two years after the date of the enactment of the appropriation law; and

(3) limits the amount that may be obligated to an amount that does not exceed the amount by which the aggregate of the amounts transferred to the account of Minnesota ~~pursuant to~~ under the Reed Act exceeds the aggregate of the amounts used ~~pursuant to~~ under this subdivision and charged against the amounts transferred to the account of Minnesota. For the purposes of this subdivision, amounts used for administration ~~shall be~~ are chargeable against the transferred amounts at the time of the obligation.

(c) Reed Act money requisitioned for the payment of expenses of administration ~~shall~~ remain a part of the ~~unemployment insurance~~ trust fund. The commissioner shall account for the use of this money in accordance with the standards established by the United States Secretary of Labor. If any money is not spent for the purpose for which it was appropriated, or, if it remains unspent at the end of the period specified by the law appropriating the money, it ~~shall~~ must be returned for credit to Minnesota's account in the federal unemployment trust fund.

Sec. 97. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.194, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

Subd. 6. **Borrowing federal funds.** (a) The governor is ~~hereby~~ authorized, if necessary, to borrow funds from the federal unemployment trust fund in accordance with United States Code, title 42, section 1321 of the Social Security Act in order to pay unemployment benefits.

(b) Any amount transferred to the trust fund under the terms of any loan ~~shall~~ must be repayable as provided in United States Code, title 42, sections 1101(d)(1), 1103(b)(2), and 1322 of the Social Security Act.

(c) Interest payable on any loan ~~shall be~~ is paid in accordance with section 268.051, subdivision 8, paragraph (b).

Sec. 98. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.20, is amended to read:

268.20 REPRESENTATION IN COURT.

In any civil action to enforce the provisions of the Minnesota Unemployment Insurance Law, the commissioner ~~shall~~ may be represented by the attorney general.

Sec. 99. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.21, is amended to read:

268.21 NONLIABILITY OF STATE.

(a) Unemployment benefits ~~shall be~~ are payable only to the extent provided in this chapter and to the extent that money is available in the trust fund and neither the state nor the commissioner ~~shall be~~ is liable for any amount in excess of the money available in the trust fund.

(b) No person ~~shall~~ may make any demand, bring any suit, or other proceeding to recover from the state or the commissioner any sum alleged to be due on a benefit account after the expiration of two years from the effective date of the benefit account.

Sec. 100. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.22, is amended to read:

268.22 SAVING CLAUSE.

The legislature reserves the right to amend or repeal all or any part of the Minnesota Unemployment Insurance Law at any time; and there ~~shall be~~ is no vested private right of any kind against ~~such~~ amendment or repeal. All the rights, privileges, ~~or~~ immunities conferred ~~thereby~~, or ~~by~~ acts done ~~pursuant thereto~~, ~~shall~~ exist subject to the power of the legislature to amend or repeal these sections at any time.

Sec. 101. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 268.23, is amended to read:

268.23 SEVERABLE.

In the event that the United States Department of Labor determines that any provision of the Minnesota Unemployment Insurance Law, or any other provision of Minnesota Statutes relating to the unemployment insurance program, is not in conformity with the requirements of federal law, the provision ~~shall have~~ has no force or effect; but if only a portion of the provision, or the application to any person or circumstances, is held not in conformity, the remainder of the provision and the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances ~~shall~~ are not ~~be~~ affected.

Sec. 102. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Sections 1 to 101 are effective September 30, 2007.

ARTICLE 7

EXTRA BENEFITS

Section 1. **LUMBER COMPANY EXTRA BENEFITS.**

Subdivision 1. **Extra benefits; availability.** Extra unemployment benefits are available to an applicant if the applicant was laid off due to lack of work after April 1, 2006, from the Ainsworth Lumber Company plants in Bemidji, Cook, and Grand Rapids, and established a benefit account under Minnesota Statutes, section 268.07, prior to March 1, 2007.

Subd. 2. **Payment from fund; effect on employer.** Extra unemployment benefits are payable from the unemployment insurance trust fund. Extra unemployment benefits

paid under this section will not be used in computing the experience rating of Ainsworth Lumber Company under Minnesota Statutes, section 268.047.

Subd. 3. **Eligibility conditions.** An applicant is eligible to receive extra unemployment benefits under this section for any week through December 31, 2007, following the effective date of the applicant's benefit account of regular unemployment benefits, as a result of a layoff described under subdivision 1, if:

(1) a majority of the applicant's wage credits were with Ainsworth Lumber Company or Ainsworth Engineered;

(2) the applicant meets the eligibility requirements of Minnesota Statutes, section 268.085;

(3) the applicant is not subject to a disqualification under Minnesota Statutes, section 268.095;

(4) the applicant is not entitled to regular unemployment benefits and the applicant is not entitled to receive unemployment benefits under any other state or federal law for that week; and

(5) the applicant is enrolled in, or has within the last two weeks successfully completed, a program that qualifies as reemployment assistance training under Minnesota Statutes, section 268.035, subdivision 21a, except that an applicant whose training is scheduled to begin in more than 30 days may be considered to be in training if: (i) the applicant's chosen training program does not offer an available start date within 30 days; (ii) the applicant is scheduled to begin training on the earliest available start date for the chosen training program; and (iii) the applicant is scheduled to begin training in no more than 60 days.

Subd. 4. **Weekly amount of extra benefits.** The weekly extra unemployment benefits amount available to an applicant is the same as the applicant's weekly regular unemployment benefit amount on the benefit account established as a result of a layoff under subdivision 1.

Subd. 5. **Maximum amount of extra unemployment benefits.** (a) The maximum amount of extra unemployment benefits available is equal to 13 weeks at the applicant's weekly extra unemployment benefits amount.

(b) If an applicant qualifies for a new regular benefit account under Minnesota Statutes, section 268.07, at any time after exhausting regular unemployment benefits as a result of the layoff under subdivision 1, the applicant must apply for and exhaust entitlement to those new regular unemployment benefits. The maximum amount of extra unemployment benefits available is reduced by any new regular unemployment benefits available if the majority of wage credits on that new regular benefit account were with Ainsworth Lumber Company or Ainsworth Engineered.

Subd. 6. **Program expiration.** This extra unemployment benefit program expires on December 31, 2007. No extra unemployment benefits may be paid for any week after the expiration of this program.

Subd. 7. **Findings.** The legislature finds that providing extra unemployment benefits to assist laid-off workers of Ainsworth Lumber Company, while in training, is appropriate because:

(1) the unemployment rate in the applicant's county of employment is higher than the statewide average rate of unemployment;

(2) the average weekly wages paid in the applicant's county of employment is below the statewide average weekly wage;

(3) the applicant's weekly wage is higher than the statewide average weekly wage;
and

(4) the dislocated worker program has determined that the applicant does not currently possess skills making reemployment in a comparable position likely.

Sec. 2. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Section 1 is effective the first Sunday following final enactment.

ARTICLE 8

FILING REQUIREMENT WAIVER

Section 1. **UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS; CONTINUED REQUEST TIME PERIOD WAIVER.**

Notwithstanding the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, sections 268.085, subdivision 1, clause (1), and 268.086, the commissioner must accept continued requests for unemployment benefits and pay unemployment benefits to an applicant who:

(1) was employed as a technician or inspector for Northwest Airlines, Inc., prior to August 20, 2005;

(2) stopped working on or about August 20, 2005, because of a labor dispute between the Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association (AMFA) and Northwest Airlines, Inc.;

(3) did not file continued requests for unemployment benefits within the time periods required under Minnesota Statutes, section 268.086; and

(4) meets all the other requirements for the payment of unemployment benefits under Minnesota Statutes, section 268.069, subdivision 2.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2007.

Presented to the governor May 22, 2007

Signed by the governor May 24, 2007, 5:15 p.m.