

Provides that all fraudulent overpayment balances shall accumulate interest at the rate of 2 percent per month on unpaid balances, shall be added to the debt balance, and deposited in the fraud interest penalty account. Establishes a separate account designated as the fraud interest penalty account.

Provides that all fraudulent overpayment balances shall have an additional minimum penalty of 15 percent which shall be deposited in the state's account of the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund.

GEORGIA HB 347
(Act No. 710)

ENACTED May 2, 2012
EFFECTIVE May 2, 2012,
or as noted

Financing

Amends the provisions relating to the state-wide reserve ratio by providing that for the period of January 1 through December 31, 2013, and each calendar year thereafter, the overall increase in the required rate shall be suspended, except if the state-wide reserve ratio, as calculated, is less than 1.25 percent on the computation date with respect to rates applicable to calendar year 2013 or any calendar year thereafter, then for each such year the Georgia Commissioner of Labor shall have the option of imposing an increase in the overall rate of up to 50 percent, as of the computation date, for each employer whose rate is computed under a rate table in the law; provided, however, that if any Title XII funds borrowed by the Commissioner are unpaid or if the state unemployment compensation fund balance is less than \$1 billion, the Commissioner shall impose an increase in the overall rate of 50 percent, as of the computation date, for each employer whose rate is computed under a rate table in the law.

Increases the taxable wage base from \$8,500 to \$9,500 beginning January 1, 2013, and thereafter.

Monetary Entitlement

Changes the formula for computing the maximum benefits payable to an individual from 26 times the weekly amount or $\frac{1}{4}$ of the base period wages to 14 times the weekly benefit amount, if the state's average unemployment rate is at or below 6.5 percent, with an additional weekly amount added for each 0.5 percent increment in the state's average unemployment rate above 6.5 percent up to a maximum of 20 times the weekly benefit amount if the state's average unemployment rate equals or exceeds 9 percent or $\frac{1}{4}$ of the base period wages. Provides that this provision also applies to job training program benefits. (Effective July 1, 2012.)

Defines the term "state's average unemployment rate" to mean the average of the adjusted state-wide unemployment rates as published by the Georgia Department of Labor for the time periods of April 1 through April 30 and October 1 through October 31. The average of the adjusted state-wide unemployment rates for the time period of April 1 through April 30 shall be effective on and after July 1 of each year and shall be effective through December 31. The average of the

adjusted state-wide unemployment rates for the time period of October 1 through October 31 shall be effective on and after January 1 of each year and shall be effective through June 30. (Effective July 1, 2012.)

HAWAII HB 2096
(Act No. 6)

ENACTED March 9, 2012
EFFECTIVE March 9, 2012,
Applicable retroactively to January
1, 2012

Financing

Provides that notwithstanding the ratio of the current reserve fund to the adequate reserve fund, contribution rate schedule F shall apply for calendar year 2012. For schedule F the minimum rate is 1.20 percent and the maximum rate is 5.4 percent.

Provides that the moneys in the employment and training fund may be used also for funding the payment of interest due on Title XII advances made to the state unemployment compensation fund.

Provides that the employment and training fund assessment rate of 0.01 percent of taxable wages shall be used to pay interest on Title XII advances, if interest is due. The Director of the Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relations shall have the discretion to determine the amount of the assessment rate for calendar year 2012 in increments of 0.01 percent. Notwithstanding any provisions of law to the contrary, any amount collected but not applied to interest payments due in 2012 shall not be returned retroactively to any employer and shall be retained in the employment and training fund.

(The above 2 paragraphs relating to Title XII advances shall be repealed on January 1, 2013, and the statutes shall be reenacted in the form in which they read on December 31, 2010.)

Monetary Entitlement

Provides that the maximum weekly benefit amount (MWBA) shall be calculated at 70 percent of the average weekly wage (AWW) from January 1, 2012, to March 31, 2012, and at 75 percent of the AWW from April 1, 2012, to December 31, 2012. Beginning on January 1, 2013, the MWBA shall be calculated at 70 percent of the AWW. The MWBA is \$523 from January 1, 2012, to March 31, 2012, and increases to \$560 from April 1, 2012, to December 31, 2012.

MAINE HB 1352
(CH 499)

ENACTED March 14, 2012
EFFECTIVE July 17, 2012

Financing

Increases from 5 weeks to 6 weeks the amount of time that an employer may employ a worker without being charged for unemployment benefits. Provides that the experience rating record of the most recent subject employer may not be charged with benefits paid to a claimant whose

