

DECLARATION OF PUBLIC POLICY.

2. As a guide to the interpretation and application of this Act, the public policy of this State is declared to be as follows: Economic insecurity due to unemployment is a serious menace to the health, morals, and welfare of the people of this State. Involuntary unemployment is therefore a subject of general interest and concern which requires appropriate action by the Legislature to prevent its spread and to lighten its burden which now so often falls with crushing force upon the unemployed worker and his family. The achievement of social security requires protection against this greatest hazard of our economic life. This can be provided by encouraging employers to provide more stable employment and by the systematic accumulation of funds during periods of employment to provide benefits for periods of unemployment, thus maintaining purchasing power and limiting the serious social consequences of poor relief assistance. The Legislature, therefore, declares that in its considered judgment the public good, and the general welfare of the citizens of this State require the enactment of this measure, under the police powers of the State, for the compulsory setting aside of unemployment reserves to be used for the benefit of persons unemployed through no fault of their own.

BENEFITS.

3. (a) PAYMENT OF BENEFITS.

Twenty-four months after the date when contributions first accrue under this Act, benefits shall become payable from the fund. All benefits shall be paid through re-employment offices, in accordance with such regulations as the Board of Public Works may prescribe.

(b) WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT FOR TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT.

Each eligible individual who is totally unemployed (as defined in section 19 (L)) in any week shall be paid with respect to such week, benefits at the rate of fifty per centum of his full-time weekly wages but not more than \$15.00 per week, nor less than either \$5.00 or three-fourths of his full-time weekly wage, whichever is the lesser.

(c) WEEKLY BENEFIT FOR PARTIAL UNEMPLOYMENT.

Each eligible individual who is partially unemployed (as defined in section 19 (j)), in any week shall be paid