

**No. 5. An act relating to extending eligibility for Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation.**

(S.110)

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. CONTINUED ELIGIBILITY FOR PANDEMIC EMERGENCY

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION; DELAY OF

SUBSEQUENT BENEFIT YEAR

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of 21 V.S.A. chapter 17 to the contrary, an individual shall be eligible to receive or to continue to receive Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation benefits in lieu of regular unemployment insurance benefits if:

(1) the individual was determined to be eligible for Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation during a benefit year that expired after December 27, 2020;

(2) the individual has remaining entitlement to Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation benefits with respect to the expired benefit year;

(3) the individual would qualify pursuant to 21 V.S.A. chapter 17 for regular unemployment insurance benefits in a new benefit year; and

(4) the weekly benefit amount for regular unemployment insurance benefits in the new benefit year would be at least \$25.00 less than the weekly benefit amount payable on the individual's Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation claim in the prior benefit year.

(b)(1) The new benefit year of an individual who is determined to be eligible to receive or to continue receiving Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation benefits pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall not begin until after the individual has exhausted his or her eligibility for Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation benefits.

(2) The individual's weekly benefit amount for the new benefit year shall be determined based on the wages that would have been in the individual's base period if the beginning of the new benefit year had not been deferred pursuant to this section.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, this act shall take effect retroactively on January 1, 2021.

Date Governor signed bill: March 17, 2021