

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 940

Relating to Unemployment Insurance Benefit Claims

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

September 8, 2005

WHEREAS, on August 29, 2005, and thereafter, the State of Mississippi suffered the worst natural disaster in its history when Hurricane Katrina swept through the state;

WHEREAS, up to 500,000 Mississippians are without jobs, income and/or shelter as a result of this natural disaster;

WHEREAS, there will be a significant lack of documentation usually required to file Unemployment Insurance claims;

WHEREAS, many businesses are currently not in a position to verify unemployment insurance wage information;

WHEREAS, the state is committed to the timely processing of all Unemployment Insurance claims in this time of emergency;


NOW THEREFORE, BE IT DECLARED, I, Haley Barbour, Governor of the State of Mississippi by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Mississippi, hereby take the following action:

1. The wage verification information usually required to process unemployment insurance and disaster unemployment assistance claims will be suspended and individuals who qualify for unemployment insurance and disaster unemployment assistance benefits as a result of the events occurring on or after August 29, 2005 will be granted the maximum weekly benefit amount of Two Hundred and Ten Dollars (\$210.00), for the maximum possible period of twenty-six (26) weeks. This directive will apply to all claims effective during the disaster assistance period.
2. The one-week waiting period requirement for receiving unemployment insurance benefits shall be waived for all claims effective during the disaster assistance period. This directive will apply to all counties within the State of Mississippi.
3. Any waivers granted by the United States Congress related to the disaster resulting from Hurricane Katrina may be adopted and implemented by the State of Mississippi.
4. The Mississippi Department of Employment Security shall be empowered with the administrative flexibility to carry out this Executive Order, and shall be granted by this Executive Order the discretion and authority to suspend, amend, or modify any Mississippi Employment Security laws, rules, and/or regulations, which might impede or otherwise hinder the distribution of unemployment compensation benefits to the citizens of the State of Mississippi.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, this the \_\_\_\_ day of September in the year of our Lord, two thousand and five, and of the Independence of the United States of American, the two hundred and thirtieth.

  
HALEY BARBOUR  
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE