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On the Web: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/news.htm>

DWD Secretary Baumbach: Agency Ready to Process Extended Benefit Payments for UI Claimants

Agency to send out retroactive payments over expedited timetable following today's signing

MADISON – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Scott Baumbach said today the agency will begin processing retroactive Extended Benefits (EB) as early as Friday, August 5, now that Governor Walker has signed the measure into law. The statutory change will return the maximum UI eligibility in Wisconsin to 86 weeks from the current 73 weeks.

“At the DWD, we will act quickly to process retroactive payment as soon as possible, without interrupting processing activity for the 127,000 claimants currently receiving UI benefits,” Secretary Baumbach said. “I would like to thank our dedicated UI employees for their quick work in implementing these changes.”

The EB payments will be available retroactively starting April 17, 2011 for up to 40,000 Wisconsin claimants, and will continue through December 31, 2011. The estimated \$88 million in EB payments will not affect Wisconsin's UI Trust Fund, which currently has a loan balance of \$1.3 billion to the federal government.

Processing of Retroactive Extended Benefits Payments

Secretary Baumbach said the agency's UI Division has already initiated activities in order to begin making some payments as early as Friday, August 5. In order to continue distributing regular UI benefits while also distributing the “catch-up” payments, DWD will distribute the heavy volume of payments in phases over four business days in an expedited timetable. Distribution of the “catch-up” payments could conclude as early as Wednesday, August 10.

If claimants have been receiving UI payments regularly and are eligible to continue receiving benefits, their benefits will be processed as usual. Claimants can continue to file claims online at www.uclaim-wi.org.

Claimants who are eligible for EB should expect to receive payment within five business days after DWD processes their payments. As early as the morning after the dates indicated above, claimants can confirm their payments have been made by using the claims inquiry system at www.uclaim-wi.org or 1-800-494-4944.