



## **Social Security Benefits and Unemployment Insurance**

The Governor recently signed legislation eliminating the deduction of Social Security benefits from Unemployment Insurance benefit payments. Effective 6/24/07 the department will no longer deduct Social Security benefits from Unemployment Insurance (UI) payments. Claimants who are claiming unemployment insurance benefits for weekending June 30<sup>th</sup> and thereafter will not have their Social Security Benefits deducted from their weekly UI payment. Individuals entitled to UI payments for week(s) prior to weekending June 30 will have the Social Security benefit deducted from their payment. The change in legislation is not retroactive to prior payments or prior years of claim

Customers are being advised that to be eligible for benefits they must:

- Be totally or partially unemployed during the week for which they are claiming benefits, and;
- Be able and available for full-time work and seeking full-time work for any week he/she are claiming benefits. To be eligible, individuals cannot limit themselves to seeking only part-time employment; and
- When filing a new claim must meet certain wage requirements; and
- If they are in receipt of a pension (other than Social Security), the deduction cannot exceed their weekly benefit rate.

In compliance with Federal law, the department is still required to deduct certain pensions (other than Social Security) from unemployment insurance benefit payments. Please note:

- If an individual had a prior claim i.e. in 2005, he or she will not be entitled to any back UI payment(s) due to the law change.
- Individuals who did not file a claim for UI because they felt their Social Security benefits were in excess of their weekly UI benefit rate may do so at this time; their claim would become effective the Sunday in which they file the claim and must meet all other UI requirements.