



Ohio Senate
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Committees:
Finance – General Government & Agency Review
Subcommittee, Vice Chairman
Transportation, Commerce & Workforce
Energy & Public Utilities
Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs

Michael A. Rulli
State Senator
33rd Senate District

May 11th, 2020

Chairman Carlton K. Ingram,

I appreciate you reaching out to me concerning the wonderful members at the Operating Engineers Local #66. Please find the attached responses my office received from the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services:

- 1.) Has the waiting period to receive unemployment benefits been waived?
Yes, the waiting week is currently waived.
- 2.) How long will unemployment benefits be paid out through the state?
The state unemployment system will continue operation indefinitely. Specific to a single case, individuals have up to 26 weeks of initial eligibility. The CARES Act allows those beyond 26 weeks to apply for an additional 13 weeks of unemployment.
- 3.) Do I need to apply separately for the \$600 federal payment for the unemployment compensation laid out from the CARES Act?
No, the additional \$600 is tied to eligibility for either traditional UI of the new PUA program.
- 4.) Is the new \$600 weekly federal benefit subject to state or federal income taxes?
An individual can elect to have taxes withheld from the payment; regardless, the individual will receive a 1099 for this tax year.
- 5.) When will the weekly \$600 federal payment be sent out?
Weekly \$600 payments are currently being issued.
- 6.) Will the \$600 federal payment be paid retroactively to those that have been collecting unemployment compensation since the passage of the bill? When will that date of retroactivity start?
Yes, the \$600 will be retroactive and will begin the date that the constituent first becomes eligible under the terms of the CARES Act.

Should you or any anyone else have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael A. Rulli".

Michael A. Rulli
State Senator, 33rd District



**Office of Representative Michele Lepore-Hagan
58th Ohio House District**

May 8, 2020

International Union of Operating Engineers Local #66
c/o Carlton K. Ingram, Chairman
291 McClurg Rd.
Youngstown, OH 44512-6774

Dear Mr. Ingram,

Thank you very much for contacting my office. It is a pleasure to serve the constituents of the 58th district and Mahoning Valley. This is a time of great uncertainty for many in our area, and my office is available and ready to assist.

I am in receipt of your questions concerning unemployment insurance. I have asked both my Legislative Aide and our Democratic Caucus Policy Staff to review them. Below are the questions with well-researched answers.

Has the waiting period to receive unemployment benefits been waived?

Yes, it has.

How long will unemployment benefits be paid out through the state?

The PEUC program authorizes up to 13 weeks of additional benefits for those who exhaust their maximum 26 weeks of regular unemployment benefits on or after July 1, 2019. Additionally, claimants must also have no rights to regular unemployment benefits under any other state or federal law, and they must be able and available to work. This program is available from March 29, 2020 to December 26, 2020.

It will not be automatic, but you can easily apply. If your maximum 26 weeks of regular unemployment benefits are about to expire, or if they previously expired after July 1, 2019, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services will send you a written notice with instructions explaining how to apply.

If someone thinks they don't qualify because they previously used their 26 weeks:

- They will be able to receive 13 weeks of unemployment via the CARES Act
- They can still qualify if they have been employed for at least 6 weeks from when their benefit year ended AND
- Had been earning 3 times the average weekly wage that was used in their previous benefit year.

Do I need to apply separately for the \$600 federal payments for unemployment compensation laid out from the CARES Act?

No. There is nothing additional that is needed from you to receive FPUC. It is paid automatically until July 25, 2020. The first payment will include any retroactive payments for which you may be eligible, dating as far back as March 29, 2020.

Is the new weekly federal benefit subject to state or federal income taxes?

When you file for unemployment you select whether you want taxes to come out before you receive your benefit or pay taxes on the benefit later. The \$600 PUA payment will follow whatever model you selected for your regular UI benefit. If they request to have taxes taken out first, the \$600 becomes \$480/week.

When will the weekly \$600 federal payment be sent out?

The \$600 payments will start getting tacked on at the end of the week of April 20th and will be staggered, two separate payouts (one will be their normal unemployment, the other the \$600). The additional \$600 per week will be paid via a separate weekly payment and will appear on your pay stubs with the designation "FAC". It will be paid until July 25, 2020 as long as you are still eligible for unemployment benefits. The first payment will include any retroactive payments for which you may be eligible, dating as far back as March 29, 2020.

Will the \$600 federal payment be paid retroactively to those that have been collecting unemployment compensation since the passage of the bill? When will that date of retroactivity start from?

The \$600 supplements are retroactive to March 29th and available through July 25th. They will show up on claimants' pay stubs with the designation "FAC". The benefit amount will be similar to traditional unemployment benefits + \$600. Benefits excluding the additional \$600 are retroactive as early as February 2nd

You can also find additional information on the Ohio Jobs and Family Services' [Employee Resource Hub](#) and the [Expanded Eligibility Resource Hub](#). If you or any other members of Local #66 have additional questions, my office is here. Thank you again for contacting me. Best wishes and stay safe.

Respectfully,



Representative Michele Lepore-Hagan
Ohio House District 58

133rd General Assembly Committee Assignments
Economic Development, Commerce, and Labor, Ranking Member
Health
Transportation and Public Safety

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