Existing law (R.S. 23:1474) provides for six procedures to be applied in funding unemployment insurance depending upon the balance in the unemployment trust fund and the projection of such balance next year and the direction in which the balance of the fund is moving. Each procedure provides for the maximum dollar amount of wage that will constitute the taxable wage base, the maximum dollar amount of weekly benefit amount a claimant may receive, and the method of calculation of that benefit amount.

Existing law (R.S. 23:1474(I)) provides that when the applied unemployment trust fund balance is equal to or greater than $1 billion (Procedure 4), the taxable wage base will be $7,000, the maximum weekly benefit amount shall be $215, and the benefit amount shall be calculated as 1/25 of the average of the claimant's total wages for insured work paid during the four quarters of the base period multiplied by 1.05.

Existing law provides the same taxable wage base, maximum weekly benefit amount, and procedure for calculation of the benefit amount when the applied trust fund balance is between $900 million and $1 billion and the balance is going in a downward direction (Procedure 5).

New law adds Procedure 7 which provides that when the applied unemployment trust fund balance is equal to or greater than $1.25 billion but less than $1.4 billion, the taxable wage base will be $7,000, the maximum weekly benefit amount shall be $247, and the benefit amount shall be calculated as 1/25 of the average of the claimant's total wages for insured work paid in the four quarters of the base period multiplied by 1.05, then multiplied by 1.15.

New law also adds Procedure 8 which provides that when the applied unemployment trust fund balance is equal to or greater than $1.4 billion, the taxable wage base will be $7,000, the maximum weekly benefit amount shall be $258, and the benefit amount shall be calculated as 1/25 of the average of the claimant's total wages for insured work paid in the four quarters of the base period multiplied by 1.05, then multiplied by 1.20.

previous year's expenditures, the employers and training entities participating, the number of persons trained with the monies, and the pay raise each trainee received. New law further provides that not less than annually, but as often as deemed appropriate by the legislative auditor, the administrator shall present a fiscal report to the legislative auditor.

New law provides that any employer applicant who agrees to: (1) increase the wages of those who complete the training, (2) increase the number of employees, (3) give preference to the unemployed in hiring new employees, or (4) provide in kind match as a component of the training program shall be given special consideration in awarding of the training monies; however, such agreement is not a mandatory part of an application for the monies.

Existing law (R.S. 23:1515) provides for an account within the Employment Security Administration Fund for supplemental funding of personnel costs associated with specific unemployment insurance functions of the Louisiana Dept. of Labor, restricted to these six areas: (1) auditing of claims, (2) recovery of amounts overpaid to claimants, (3) auditing of experience-rating accounts, (4) recovery of delinquent contributions, (5) dispositions of appeals, and (6) cash management and remittance processing.

New law retains existing law but adds that the monies in the subaccount may be used for personnel costs associated with employment security functions as well, and adds to the list of proper areas of use: (7) field staffing and (8) outreach to employers, employees, and unemployed persons.

Existing law (R.S. 23:1535) provides that a new employer's rate for his first experience-rating year shall be the weighted average rate for employers in the same two-digit standard industrial classification according to the latest computation. Existing law provides that thereafter and until his experience-rating record could have been charged with benefits throughout the 24 consecutive calendar-month period ending on the computation date, his rate shall remain at that weighted average unless his reserve reflects a negative balance, in which event his rate shall be the maximum applicable to any employer for that experience-rating year. Existing law provides that when his experience-rating record could have been charged with benefits throughout the

New law provides that an amount not to exceed $35 million, credited to the Workforce Development Training Account, shall only be charged to this account in certain calendar years in which Procedure 7 is applied and only to the amount necessary to bring the balance of unobligated funds in such subaccount to $35 million.

New law provides that an amount not to exceed $50 million, credited to the Workforce Development Training Account, shall only be charged to this account in certain calendar years in which Procedure 8 is applied and only to the amount necessary to bring the balance of unobligated funds in such subaccount to $50 million.

Prior law (R.S. 23:1553(B)(7)) provided that an amount not to exceed $2 million was to be credited to the Employment Security Administration Account for use as supplemental funding of personnel costs associated with specific unemployment insurance functions. The specific functions are: (1) auditing of claims filed, (2) recovery of amounts overpaid to claimants, (3) auditing of experience-rating accounts, (4) recovery of delinquent contributions, (5) disposition of appeals, and (6) cash management and remittance processing. Prior law provided that such amounts were not be expended or be available for expenditure in any manner which would permit their substitution for, or a corresponding reduction in, federal funds and only in certain calendar years when the unemployment trust fund balance is above $900 million and inadequate funds are received from the unemployment insurance administrative grant.

New law provides that an amount not to exceed $4 million in Procedure 7 years and $5 million in Procedure 8 years is to be credited to the Employment Security Administration Account for use as supplemental funding of personnel costs associated with specific unemployment insurance and employment security functions. The specific functions include the six in existing law, and (7) field staffing and (8) outreach to employers, employees, and unemployed persons. New law provides that such amounts shall not be expended or be available for expenditure in any manner which would permit their substitution for, or a corresponding reduction in, federal funds.