



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** Res 1849-2009, **Version:** \*

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Res. No. 1849

Resolution calling upon the New York State Legislature to increase the maximum weekly unemployment insurance benefit of \$405 to be compatible with the greater benefits provided by twenty-four other states, including New Jersey and Connecticut, and to pass A.4921/S.2245, an act to amend the labor law, in relation to the unemployment insurance law and increasing the maximum benefit rate for unemployment insurance.

By Council Members Foster, Brewer, Comrie, Dickens, Gonzalez, James, Koppell, Mealy, Palma, Rivera, Sanders Jr., Vann, Weprin, Gerson, Avella, White Jr. and Gentile

Whereas, The New York State Legislature is considering A. 4921/S.2245, an act to amend the labor law, in relation to the unemployment insurance law and increasing the maximum benefit rate for unemployment insurance; and

Whereas, A. 4921/S.2245 would allow for an increase in unemployment benefits to be implemented gradually over the next four years; and

Whereas, These increases would result in a weekly benefit of \$475 as of July 2009, \$525 as of July 2010, \$575 as of July 2011, and \$625 as of July 2012; and

Whereas, According to the New York State Department of Labor, as of December 2008 the unemployment rate for the State was 7.0 % and 7.5% for New York City; and

Whereas, The New York Unemployment Insurance Coalition has pointed out that, between May and October 2008, the unemployment rates have surged in low-income areas and for minority groups, in particular, with Hispanic workers at double (6.6%) and black workers at triple (9.2%) the unemployment rates of white workers (3.0%) for the period; and

Whereas, In addition, during the same time period the poorest boroughs, Brooklyn and the Bronx, face unemployment rates of one (6.2%) and three (7.7%) points respectively, which was higher than the other three

boroughs, whose rates fall between 5.0% - 5.1%; and

Whereas, New York's maximum weekly unemployment benefit has remained at \$405 per week for the past decade with the average weekly benefit rate at \$305; and

Whereas, At least twenty-four other states, including neighboring New Jersey and Connecticut, offer a higher maximum weekly unemployment insurance benefit than that of New York state; and

Whereas, Unemployment benefits often help to prevent poverty by enabling families to keep food on the table, pay their rent or mortgage, and preserve hard-earned savings during periods of joblessness; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the New York State Legislature to increase the maximum weekly unemployment insurance benefit of \$405 to be compatible with the greater benefits provided by twenty-four other states, including New Jersey and Connecticut, and to pass A. 4921/S.2245, an act to amend the labor law, in relation to the unemployment insurance law and increasing the maximum benefit rate for unemployment insurance.

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