



Dear Brian,

You may have noticed an uptick in emails and news from SMART Transportation Division and SMART. The added updates are our effort to keep members, retirees and families fully informed on issues regarding the Coronavirus Relief Act and its impact on railroaders. Today's email is an example; I am passing on a press release from John Bragg, the Railroad Retirement Board's Labor Member regarding the Coronavirus Relief Act and Impact on Railroad Workers.

I encourage you to read the below statement from John Bragg, especially if you been financially impacted in the last two weeks.

Fraternally,
Greg Hynes
National Legislative Director
SMART Transportation Division

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, or CARES Act, signed into law by President Trump on March 27, boosts unemployment and sickness benefits for railroad workers impacted by the pandemic.

Under the CARES Act, the 1-week waiting period required before railroad workers can receive unemployment or sickness benefits is temporarily eliminated. This applies to an employee's first 2-week registration period for a period of continuing sickness or unemployment beginning after the effective date of the law and ending on or before December 31, 2020.

In addition, the amount of the unemployment benefit is increased by \$1,200 per 2-week period. This is in addition to the current biweekly maximum of \$733.98 received by most claimants. This increased amount applies to any 2-week registration periods beginning on or after April 1, 2020, through July 31, 2020.

[Click here to read the rest of the story on the SMART TD website.](#)