

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 27, 2009

CONTACT: James Osborne, Benefit Payment Control, 304-558-3306

Jama L. Jarrett, Communications Specialist
Department of Commerce, 304-558-2003, ext. 341

WorkForce West Virginia Recovers Fraudulent Unemployment Benefits

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The Unemployment Compensation Division of WorkForce West Virginia has recovered \$129,928.08 in fraudulently obtained unemployment benefits during the second quarter of 2009.

The division detected fraud in claims filed by 129 individuals during the period and requested warrants on 27 of those cases.

In all cases where fraud is detected the claimants are penalized. Penalties include a 52-week disqualification from receiving future unemployment benefits, repayment of overpaid benefits, possible fines and jail time, and potential civil suits.

Warrants were issued for unemployment fraud to residents in the following counties: Berkeley, Boone, Cabell, Fayette, Greenbrier, Jefferson, Kanawha, Marion, Mercer, Mineral, Monongalia, Ohio, Preston and Wyoming

###

Media note: WorkForce West Virginia does not release the names of residents penalized for unemployment fraud.