
SENATE BILL 6145

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators Roach, Hewitt, T. Sheldon, Rossi, Carlson, Stevens, Horn, Honeyford, Oke, Johnson, Benton, Zarelli, Long, Sheahan, Morton, McCaslin, Hale, Hochstatter, Swecker, West, Parlette, McDonald, Finkbeiner and Deccio

Read first time 03/13/2001. Referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce & Financial Institutions.

1 AN ACT Relating to allowing victims of domestic violence or
2 stalking to receive unemployment insurance benefits; adding a new
3 chapter to Title 50 RCW; and making an appropriation.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** There is established in the employment
6 security department the domestic violence unemployment insurance
7 special benefits program. The commissioner shall administer the
8 program using the funds appropriated by the legislature for this act.
9 The expenses incurred by the commissioner in carrying out this chapter
10 shall be paid entirely out of the funds appropriated by the legislature
11 for this act.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** In order to be eligible for benefits under
13 the domestic violence unemployment insurance special benefits program,
14 an applicant must have been a victim of domestic violence, as defined
15 in RCW 26.50.010, or stalking, as defined in RCW 9A.46.110, within two
16 years before the application date for benefits, and must show that he
17 or she is seeking safety or relief from the domestic violence by:

1 (1) Relocating to a residence that is separate from the
2 perpetrator; and

3 (2) Filing a police report or obtaining a restraining order against
4 the perpetrator.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** In addition to the requirements of section
6 2 of this act, in order to be eligible for benefits under the domestic
7 violence unemployment insurance special benefits program, an applicant
8 must either be unemployed based on a necessity to protect the applicant
9 or the applicant's immediate family members from domestic violence, as
10 defined in RCW 26.50.010, and have been denied unemployment insurance
11 benefits under chapter 50.20 RCW.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** To the extent that funds are available, if
13 a person establishes eligibility under sections 2 and 3 of this act,
14 the commissioner shall provide unemployment insurance special benefits
15 in the form of a weekly wage subsidy to the person beginning with the
16 calendar week in which application was made for unemployment insurance
17 benefits. The weekly wage subsidy will be an amount equal to the
18 weekly benefit amount the applicant would have received if benefits had
19 not been denied under chapter 50.20 RCW. However, the duration and
20 amount of the weekly wage subsidy received by the applicant may not
21 exceed the maximum unemployment insurance benefit amount established in
22 RCW 50.20.120.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The employment security department shall
24 provide information to applicants for unemployment insurance special
25 benefits regarding local services provided under chapter 70.123 RCW and
26 the availability of protection orders under chapter 26.50 RCW.

27 (2) Weekly wage subsidies are not unemployment insurance benefits
28 under this title and the issuance of wage subsidies shall not affect an
29 employer's payment contribution determined under chapter 50.24 RCW, or
30 an employer's experience rating determined under chapter 50.29 RCW.

31 (3) Information or records concerning an individual receiving or
32 applying for a weekly wage subsidy under this program is subject to
33 chapter 50.13 RCW and is not subject to discovery in any judicial
34 proceeding unless the requirements of RCW 70.123.075 are satisfied.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The sum of three hundred thousand dollars,
2 or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from the public
3 safety and education account to the employment security department for
4 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003, to carry out the purposes of this
5 act.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act constitute
7 a new chapter in Title 50 RCW.

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