
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6392

State of Washington 63rd Legislature 2014 Regular Session

By Senate Commerce & Labor (originally sponsored by Senator Baumgartner)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/14.

1 AN ACT Relating to unemployment benefits; amending RCW 50.20.240;
2 and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that as of November
5 2013, the unemployment rate in Washington is 6.8 percent and there are
6 over two hundred thousand unemployed people in the state. The
7 legislature further finds that the performance of community service
8 helps unemployed individuals maintain a connection to the labor market,
9 which in turn increases the ability of an unemployed individual to find
10 permanent employment. The legislature therefore intends to encourage
11 unemployed people to maintain a connection to the labor market by
12 establishing community service options for individuals receiving
13 unemployment benefits.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 50.20.240 and 2006 c 13 s 16 are each amended to read
15 as follows:

16 (1)(a) To ensure that following the initial application for
17 benefits, an individual is actively engaged in searching for work, the
18 employment security department shall implement a job search monitoring

1 program. Effective January 4, 2004, the department shall contract with
2 employment security agencies in other states to ensure that individuals
3 residing in those states and receiving benefits under this title are
4 actively engaged in searching for work in accordance with the
5 requirements of this section. The department may use interactive voice
6 technology and other electronic means to ensure that individuals are
7 subject to comparable job search monitoring, regardless of whether they
8 reside in Washington or elsewhere.

9 (b) Except for those individuals with employer attachment or union
10 referral, individuals who qualify for unemployment compensation under
11 RCW 50.20.050 (1)(b)(iv) or (2)(b)(iv), as applicable, and individuals
12 in commissioner-approved training, an individual who has received five
13 or more weeks of benefits under this title, regardless of whether the
14 individual resides in Washington or elsewhere, must provide evidence of
15 seeking work, as directed by the commissioner or the commissioner's
16 agents, for each week beyond five in which a claim is filed. With
17 regard to claims with an effective date before January 4, 2004, the
18 evidence must demonstrate contacts with at least three employers per
19 week or documented in-person job search activity at the local
20 reemployment center. With regard to claims with an effective date on
21 or after January 4, 2004, the evidence must demonstrate contacts with
22 at least three employers per week or documented in-person job search
23 activities at the local reemployment center at least three times per
24 week. With regard to claims with an effective date on or after July 1,
25 2014, two hours of community service may be substituted for one
26 instance of contacting an employer or one in-person job search
27 activity.

28 (c) In developing the requirements for the job search monitoring
29 program, the commissioner or the commissioner's agents shall utilize an
30 existing advisory committee having equal representation of employers
31 and workers.

32 (2) Effective January 4, 2004, an individual who fails to comply
33 fully with the requirements for actively seeking work under RCW
34 50.20.010 shall lose all benefits for all weeks during which the
35 individual was not in compliance, and the individual shall be liable
36 for repayment of all such benefits under RCW 50.20.190.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** If any provision of this act or its
2 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
3 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
4 persons or circumstances is not affected.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If any part of this act is found to be in
6 conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to
7 the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of
8 employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the
9 conflicting part of this act is inoperative solely to the extent of the
10 conflict, and the finding or determination does not affect the
11 operation of the remainder of this act. Rules adopted under this act
12 must meet federal requirements that are a necessary condition to the
13 receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal
14 unemployment tax credits to employers in this state.

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