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SENATE BILL 6392

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State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Senator Baumgartner

Read first time 01/23/14. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 AN ACT Relating to unemployment benefits; amending RCW 50.20.010;  
2 adding a new section to chapter 50.20 RCW; and creating a new section.

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 standards for individuals receiving  
13 unemployment benefits.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 50.20.010 and 2006 c 13 s 10 are each amended to read  
15 as follows:

16 (1) An unemployed individual shall be eligible to receive waiting  
17 period credits or benefits with respect to any week in his or her  
18 eligibility period only if the commissioner finds that:

1 (a) He or she has registered for work at, and thereafter has  
2 continued to report at, an employment office in accordance with such  
3 regulation as the commissioner may prescribe, except that the  
4 commissioner may by regulation waive or alter either or both of the  
5 requirements of this subdivision as to individuals attached to regular  
6 jobs and as to such other types of cases or situations with respect to  
7 which the commissioner finds that the compliance with such requirements  
8 would be oppressive, or would be inconsistent with the purposes of this  
9 title;

10 (b) He or she has filed an application for an initial determination  
11 and made a claim for waiting period credit or for benefits in  
12 accordance with the provisions of this title;

13 (c) He or she is able to work, and is available for work in any  
14 trade, occupation, profession, or business for which he or she is  
15 reasonably fitted.

16 (i) With respect to claims that have an effective date before  
17 January 4, 2004, to be available for work an individual must be ready,  
18 able, and willing, immediately to accept any suitable work which may be  
19 offered to him or her and must be actively seeking work pursuant to  
20 customary trade practices and through other methods when so directed by  
21 the commissioner or the commissioner's agents.

22 (ii) With respect to claims that have an effective date on or after  
23 January 4, 2004, to be available for work an individual must be ready,  
24 able, and willing, immediately to accept any suitable work which may be  
25 offered to him or her and must be actively seeking work pursuant to  
26 customary trade practices and through other methods when so directed by  
27 the commissioner or the commissioner's agents. If a labor agreement or  
28 dispatch rules apply, customary trade practices must be in accordance  
29 with the applicable agreement or rules;

30 (d) He or she has been unemployed for a waiting period of one week;

31 (e) He or she participates in reemployment services if the  
32 individual has been referred to reemployment services pursuant to the  
33 profiling system established by the commissioner under RCW 50.20.011,  
34 unless the commissioner determines that:

35 (i) The individual has completed such services; or

36 (ii) There is justifiable cause for the claimant's failure to  
37 participate in such services; (~~and~~)

1        (f) With respect to claims that have an effective date on or after  
2 July 20, 2014, he or she performs at least eight hours of community  
3 service for every four weeks of unemployment benefits received unless  
4 the commissioner determines that:

5        (i) The individual is younger than eighteen years of age or older  
6 than sixty-five years of age; or

7        (ii) There is justifiable cause for the failure to perform  
8 community service; and

9        (g) As to weeks beginning after March 31, 1981, which fall within  
10 an extended benefit period as defined in RCW 50.22.010, the individual  
11 meets the terms and conditions of RCW 50.22.020 with respect to  
12 benefits claimed in excess of twenty-six times the individual's weekly  
13 benefit amount.

14        (2) An individual's eligibility period for regular benefits shall  
15 be coincident to his or her established benefit year. An individual's  
16 eligibility period for additional or extended benefits shall be the  
17 periods prescribed elsewhere in this title for such benefits.

18        NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 50.20 RCW  
19 to read as follows:

20        The commissioner may adopt rules as necessary to implement RCW  
21 50.20.010(1)(f), including the establishment of standards for  
22 documenting and reporting community service hours worked.

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