
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5462

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Labor & Commerce (originally sponsored by Senators Vognild and Prentice)

Read first time 03/03/93.

1 AN ACT Relating to disqualification for unemployment insurance;
2 amending RCW 50.20.050; and creating a new section.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 50.20.050 and 1982 1st ex.s. c 18 s 6 are each amended
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) An individual shall be disqualified from benefits beginning
7 with the first day of the calendar week in which he or she has left
8 work voluntarily without good cause and thereafter until he or she has
9 obtained bona fide work and earned wages of not less than five times
10 his or her suspended weekly benefit amount (~~in each of five calendar~~
11 ~~weeks~~)).

12 The disqualification shall continue if the work obtained is a mere
13 sham to qualify for benefits and is not bona fide work. In determining
14 whether work is of a bona fide nature, the commissioner shall consider
15 factors including but not limited to the following:

16 (a) The duration of the work;

17 (b) The extent of direction and control by the employer over the
18 work; and

1 (c) The level of skill required for the work in light of the
2 individual's training and experience.

3 (2) An individual shall not be considered to have left work
4 voluntarily without good cause when:

5 (a) He or she has left work to accept a bona fide offer of bona
6 fide work as described in subsection (1) of this section; or

7 (b) The separation was because of compelling personal reasons of
8 the claimant, including but not limited to the claimant's marital
9 status or domestic responsibilities, or because of the illness or
10 disability of the claimant or the death, illness, or disability of a
11 member of the claimant's immediate family ((if the claimant took)).
12 The claimant shall have taken all reasonable precautions, in accordance
13 with any regulations that the commissioner may prescribe, to protect
14 his or her employment status by having promptly notified the employer
15 of the reason for the absence and by having promptly requested
16 reemployment when again able to assume employment((:— PROVIDED, That)).
17 However, these precautions need not have been taken when they would
18 have been a futile act, including those instances when the futility of
19 the act was a result of a recognized labor/management dispatch system.
20 For the purposes of this subsection, "marital status" includes a
21 marriage of the claimant pending within a reasonable period after
22 leaving work.

23 (3)(a) In determining under this section whether an individual has
24 left work voluntarily without good cause, the commissioner shall only
25 consider work-connected factors such as the degree of risk involved to
26 the individual's health, safety, and morals, the individual's physical
27 fitness for the work, the individual's ability to perform the work,
28 distance to work and transportation available, and such other work
29 connected factors as the commissioner may deem pertinent, including
30 state and national emergencies. ~~((Good cause shall not be established~~
31 ~~for voluntarily leaving work because of its distance from an~~
32 ~~individual's residence where the distance was known to the individual~~
33 ~~at the time he or she accepted the employment and where, in the~~
34 ~~judgment of the department, the distance is customarily traveled by~~
35 ~~workers in the individual's job classification and labor market, nor~~
36 ~~because of any other significant work factor which was generally known~~
37 ~~and present at the time he or she accepted employment, unless the~~
38 ~~related circumstances have so changed as to amount to a substantial~~

1 involuntary deterioration of the work factor or unless the commissioner
2 determines that other related))

3 (b) Good cause shall be established whenever an individual quits
4 work because:

5 (i) Hours of work offered, pay, distance traveled to work, or any
6 other significant work factor has deteriorated to the detriment of the
7 employee by more than ten percent, unless the reduction has been
8 specifically agreed to in writing by the individual and the employer.

9 (ii) The employer or supervisory personnel of the employer
10 committed misconduct. Misconduct includes but is not limited to
11 failure to correct an illegal working condition after reasonable notice
12 and any conduct that disqualifies an individual from unemployment
13 benefits under RCW 50.20.060.

14 (c) Notwithstanding the requirement for written agreements in (b)
15 of this subsection, good cause may be established when work-related
16 circumstances would work an unreasonable hardship on the individual
17 were he or she required to continue in the employment.

18 ~~((4) Subsections (1) and (3) of this section shall not apply to an~~
19 ~~individual whose marital status or domestic responsibilities cause him~~
20 ~~or her to leave employment. Such an individual shall not be eligible~~
21 ~~for unemployment insurance benefits until he or she has requalified,~~
22 ~~either by obtaining bona fide work and earning wages of not less than~~
23 ~~the suspended weekly benefit amount in each of five calendar weeks or~~
24 ~~by reporting in person to the department during ten different calendar~~
25 ~~weeks and certifying on each occasion that he or she is ready, able,~~
26 ~~and willing to immediately accept any suitable work which may be~~
27 ~~offered, is actively seeking work pursuant to customary trade~~
28 ~~practices, and is utilizing such employment counseling and placement~~
29 ~~services as are available through the department.))~~

30 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. If any part of this act is found to be in
31 conflict with federal requirements which are a prescribed condition to
32 the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of
33 employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the
34 conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative
35 solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination
36 shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules
37 under this act shall meet federal requirements which are a necessary

1 condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting
2 of federal unemployment tax credits to employers in this state.

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

--- END ---