
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1682

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By House Labor & Workplace Standards (originally sponsored by Representatives Ortiz-Self, Berry, Simmons, Gregerson, Doglio, Reed, Scott, and Pollet)

READ FIRST TIME 02/20/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to part-time workers in the unemployment
2 insurance system; amending RCW 50.20.100 and 50.20.119; and adding a
3 new section to chapter 50.20 RCW.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 50.20.100 and 2021 c 2 s 11 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) Suitable work for an individual is employment in an
8 occupation in keeping with the individual's prior work experience,
9 education, or training and if the individual has no prior work
10 experience, special education, or training for employment available
11 in the general area, then employment which the individual would have
12 the physical and mental ability to perform. In determining whether
13 work is suitable for an individual, the commissioner shall also
14 consider the degree of risk involved to the individual's health,
15 safety, and morals, the degree of risk to the health of those
16 residing with the individual during a public health emergency, the
17 individual's physical fitness, the individual's length of
18 unemployment and prospects for securing local work in the
19 individual's customary occupation, the distance of the available work
20 from the individual's residence, and such other factors as the

1 commissioner may deem pertinent, including state and national
2 emergencies.

3 (2) For individuals with base year work experience in
4 agricultural labor, any agricultural labor available from any
5 employer shall be deemed suitable unless it meets conditions in RCW
6 50.20.110 or the commissioner finds elements of specific work
7 opportunity unsuitable for a particular individual.

8 (3)(a) For part-time workers as defined in RCW 50.20.119 with
9 claims that have an effective date before August 3, 2025, suitable
10 work includes suitable work under subsection (1) of this section that
11 is for seventeen or fewer hours per week.

12 (b) For part-time workers under section 3(1) of this act with
13 claims that have an effective date on or after August 3, 2025,
14 suitable work includes suitable work under subsection (1) of this
15 section that is for a number of hours per week equal to or more than
16 the individual's average number of weekly hours in the individual's
17 base year.

18 (4) For individuals who have qualified for unemployment
19 compensation benefits under RCW 50.20.050 (1)(b)(iv) or (2)(b)(iv),
20 as applicable, an evaluation of the suitability of the work must
21 consider the individual's need to address the physical,
22 psychological, legal, and other effects of domestic violence or
23 stalking.

24 **Sec. 2.** RCW 50.20.119 and 2006 c 13 s 15 are each amended to
25 read as follows:

26 (1) With respect to claims that have an effective date on or
27 after January 2, 2005, and before August 3, 2025, an otherwise
28 eligible individual may not be denied benefits for any week because
29 the individual is a part-time worker and is available for, seeks,
30 applies for, or accepts only work of (~~seventeen~~) 17 or fewer hours
31 per week by reason of the application of RCW 50.20.010(1)(c),
32 50.20.080, or 50.22.020(1) relating to availability for work and
33 active search for work, or failure to apply for or refusal to accept
34 suitable work.

35 (2) For purposes of this section, "part-time worker" means an
36 individual who: (a) Earned wages in "employment" in at least
37 (~~forty~~) 40 weeks in the individual's base year; and (b) did not
38 earn wages in "employment" in more than (~~seventeen~~) 17 hours per
39 week in any weeks in the individual's base year.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 50.20
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 With respect to claims that have an effective date on or after
4 August 3, 2025:

5 (1) For the purposes of applying RCW 50.20.010(1)(c), 50.20.080,
6 or 50.22.020(1) concerning availability for work and active search
7 for work, or failure to apply for or refusal to accept suitable work,
8 an otherwise eligible individual may not be denied benefits for any
9 week because the individual is a part-time worker and is available
10 for and seeks work that is for a number of hours per week equal to or
11 more than the individual's average number of weekly hours in the
12 individual's base year.

13 (2) An otherwise eligible individual who was not a part-time
14 worker in the individual's base year may not be denied benefits for
15 any week based on the individual being unavailable for full-time work
16 if:

17 (a) The individual has become unable to work full time as a
18 result of: The individual's illness; the death, illness, or
19 disability of a family member; the care for a child or a vulnerable
20 adult in the individual's care becoming inaccessible; or the need to
21 protect the individual or a member of the individual's immediate
22 family from domestic violence, as defined in RCW 7.105.010, or
23 stalking, as defined in RCW 9A.46.110; and

24 (b) The individual is available for and seeks work that is for at
25 least 20 hours per week.

26 (3) For the purposes of this section, "part-time worker" means an
27 individual who:

28 (a) Earned wages in "employment" in at least 40 weeks in the
29 individual's base year; and

30 (b) Worked, on average, less than 35 hours per week.

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