

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SENATE BILL 5331**

Chapter 117, Laws of 2023

68th Legislature  
2023 Regular Session

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE—JOB SEARCH REQUIREMENTS

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 23, 2023

Passed by the Senate February 15,  
2023

Yeas 34 Nays 15

DENNY HECK

**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House April 7, 2023

Yeas 81 Nays 15

Laurie Jinkins

**Speaker of the House of  
Representatives**

Approved April 20, 2023 10:18 AM

JAY INSLEE

**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SENATE BILL 5331** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

SARAH BANNISTER

**Secretary**

FILED

April 21, 2023

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SENATE BILL 5331**

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Passed Legislature - 2023 Regular Session

**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2023 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Conway, Saldaña, Keiser, Lovelett, and C. Wilson; by request of Employment Security Department

Read first time 01/12/23. Referred to Committee on Labor & Commerce.

1       AN ACT Relating to job search requirements for unemployment  
2 insurance benefits; amending RCW 50.20.240; and creating new  
3 sections.

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

5       **Sec. 1.** RCW 50.20.240 and 2021 c 82 s 1 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7       (1)(a) To ensure that following the initial application for  
8 benefits, an individual is actively engaged in searching for work,  
9 the employment security department shall implement job search  
10 monitoring. The employment security department shall contract with  
11 employment security agencies in other states to ensure that  
12 individuals residing in those states and receiving benefits under  
13 this title are actively engaged in searching for work in accordance  
14 with the requirements of this section. The employment security  
15 department must ensure that individuals are subject to comparable job  
16 search monitoring, regardless of whether they reside in Washington or  
17 elsewhere.

18       (b) Except for those individuals with employer attachment or  
19 union referral, individuals complying with an electrical  
20 apprenticeship training program that includes a recognized referral  
21 system under apprenticeship program standards approved by the

1 Washington state apprenticeship and training council, individuals who  
2 qualify for unemployment compensation under RCW 50.20.050  
3 (~~((1)(b)(iv) or (2)(b)(iv))~~), as applicable, and individuals in  
4 commissioner-approved training, an individual who has received five  
5 or more weeks of benefits under this title, regardless of whether the  
6 individual resides in Washington or elsewhere, must provide evidence  
7 of seeking work, as directed by the commissioner or the  
8 commissioner's agents, for each week beyond five in which a claim is  
9 filed.

10 ~~((i) Until December 31, 2023, the evidence must demonstrate  
11 contacts with at least three employers per week or documented in-  
12 person job search activities at the local reemployment center at  
13 least three times per week, or as otherwise directed by the  
14 employment security department to meet the intent of rigorous  
15 reemployment efforts.~~

16 ~~(ii) On or after January 1, 2024, the)~~ The evidence must  
17 demonstrate contacts with at least three employers per week, or  
18 documented job search activities with the local reemployment center  
19 at least three times per week, or as otherwise directed by the  
20 employment security department to meet the objective of reemployment  
21 in suitable work as described in RCW 50.20.100.

22 (c) In developing the requirements for job search (~~(monitoring)~~),  
23 the commissioner or the commissioner's agents shall (~~(utilize)~~)  
24 consult with an existing advisory committee having equal  
25 representation of employers and workers.

26 (2) An individual who fails to comply fully with the requirements  
27 for actively seeking work under RCW 50.20.010 shall lose all benefits  
28 for all weeks during which the individual was not in compliance, and  
29 the individual shall be liable for repayment of all such benefits  
30 under RCW 50.20.190.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** By July 1, 2024, and every two years  
32 thereafter, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036, the employment  
33 security department in consultation with the advisory committee  
34 referenced in RCW 50.20.240(1)(c) must submit a report to the  
35 appropriate committees of the legislature that details the impacts of  
36 any flexibilities utilized in claimant job search methods,  
37 monitoring, and outcomes. The report must include a section for  
38 advisory committee members to respond directly to the contents of the  
39 report.

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  
10 the 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.

Passed by the Senate February 15, 2023.  
Passed by the House April 7, 2023.  
Approved by the Governor April 20, 2023.  
Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 21, 2023.

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