



2019-2020 General Assembly

SENATE BILL 704: COVID-19 Recovery Act , Sec. 1.3: Unemployment Insurance Oversight Committee Recommendations

Committee:		Date:	July 21, 2020
Introduced by:		Prepared by:	Cindy Avrette Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	Sec. 1.3 of S.L. 2020-3		

OVERVIEW: Section 1.3 of S.L. 2020-3 enacts one of the four recommendations of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Unemployment Insurance. It allows an unemployment insurance (UI) claimant to satisfy a work search contact by attending a reemployment activity offered by a local career center.

The section became effective July 1, 2020.

CURRENT LAW AND BILL ANALYSIS: Chapter 96 establishes the State's UI system that provides UI benefits to employees who lose weekly earnings through no fault of their own. Employers pay UI taxes to fund the system based on tax rates which are experience rated to reflect each employer's usage of the UI system.

An individual's eligibility for a weekly benefit amount is determined on a week-to-week basis. One of the requirements for eligibility is that the individual must be able to work, available to work, actively seeking work, and accepts suitable work when offered. A UI claimant must make three job contacts per week with potential employers.

The Division's determination of whether an individual is actively seeking work is based, among other things, on whether the individual has made at least three job contacts during the week. This section allows an individual to satisfy one of the weekly job contacts by attending a reemployment activity offered by a local career center and verified by the Division as a suitable credit toward the work search requirement. The Division will have to determine, educate, and communicate the types of reemployment activities that will be a suitable credit. An example of a reemployment activity that may be determined suitable would be one that helped an individual create a resume.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The act became effective May 4, 2020; the work search modification became effective July 1, 2020. However, the work search modification cannot be implemented until the Division determines the types of reemployment activities that may be suitable as a credit toward the work search requirement.

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