

By: Rodriguez

H.B. No. 145

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to removing the waiting period for unemployment benefit eligibility.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 207.021(a), Labor Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided by Chapter 215, an unemployed individual is eligible to receive benefits for a benefit period if the individual:

(1) has registered for work at an employment office and has continued to report to the employment office as required by rules adopted by the commission;

(2) has made a claim for benefits under Section 208.001;

(3) is able to work;

(4) is available for work;

(5) is actively seeking work in accordance with rules adopted by the commission;

(6) for the individual's base period, has benefit wage credits:

(A) in at least two calendar quarters; and

(B) in an amount not less than 37 times the individual's benefit amount;

(7) after the beginning date of the individual's most

1 recent prior benefit year, if applicable, earned wages in an amount
2 equal to not less than six times the individual's benefit amount;
3 and

4 (8) [~~has been totally or partially unemployed for a~~
5 ~~waiting period of at least seven consecutive days, and~~

6 [~~9~~] participates in reemployment services, such as a
7 job search assistance service, if the individual has been
8 determined, according to a profiling system established by the
9 commission, to be likely to exhaust eligibility for regular
10 benefits and to need those services to obtain new employment,
11 unless:

12 (A) the individual has completed participation
13 in such a service; or

14 (B) there is reasonable cause, as determined by
15 the commission, for the individual's failure to participate in
16 those services.

17 SECTION 2. The following provisions are repealed:

18 (1) Sections 207.021(b) and (c), Labor Code; and

19 (2) Section 207.0212, Labor Code.

20 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act applies only
21 to a claim for unemployment compensation benefits filed with the
22 Texas Workforce Commission on or after the effective date of this
23 Act. A claim filed before the effective date of this Act is governed
24 by the law in effect on the date the claim was filed, and the former
25 law is continued in effect for that purpose.

26 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.