

AN ACT

relating to an exclusion from unemployment compensation chargebacks based on a separation from employment caused by certain disasters.

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

SECTION 1. Section 204.022(a), Labor Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Benefits computed on benefit wage credits of an employee or former employee may not be charged to the account of an employer if the employee's last separation from the employer's employment before the employee's benefit year:

(1) was required by a federal statute;

(2) was required by a statute of this state or an ordinance of a municipality of this state;

(3) would have disqualified the employee under Section 207.044, 207.045, 207.051, or 207.053 if the employment had been the employee's last work;

(4) imposes a disqualification under Section 207.044, 207.045, 207.051, or 207.053;

(5) was caused by a medically verifiable illness of the employee or the employee's minor child;

(6) was based on a natural disaster that results in a disaster declaration by the president of the United States under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act

1 (42 U.S.C. Section 5121 et seq.), if the employee would have been
2 entitled to unemployment assistance benefits under Section 410 of
3 that act (42 U.S.C. Section 5177) had the employee not received
4 state unemployment compensation benefits;

5 (7) was caused by a natural disaster, fire, flood, or
6 explosion that causes employees to be separated from one employer's
7 employment; ~~or~~

8 (8) resulted from the employee's resigning from
9 partial employment to accept other employment that the employee
10 reasonably believed would increase the employee's weekly wage; or

11 (9) was based on a disaster that results in a disaster
12 declaration by the governor under Section 418.014, Government Code.

13 SECTION 2. This Act applies only to a claim for unemployment
14 compensation benefits that is filed with the Texas Workforce
15 Commission on or after the effective date of this Act. A claim
16 filed before that date is governed by the law in effect on the date
17 the claim was filed, and the former law is continued in effect for
18 that purpose.

19 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
20 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
21 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
22 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
23 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1819 was passed by the House on April 3, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 141, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1819 was passed by the Senate on May 1, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor