

By: Ellis

S.B. No. 111

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to suspension of the unemployment compensation waiting
3 period requirement during a disaster subject to a federal disaster
4 declaration.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 207, Labor Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 207.0212 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 207.0212. ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN PERSONS UNEMPLOYED
9 BECAUSE OF DISASTER. (a) In this section, "disaster unemployment
10 assistance benefits" means benefits authorized under Section 410,
11 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
12 U.S.C. Section 5177), and rules adopted under that section.

13 (b) Notwithstanding Section 207.021, the governor, by
14 executive order, may suspend the waiting period requirement imposed
15 under Section 207.021(a)(7) to authorize an individual to receive
16 benefits for that waiting period if the individual:

17 (1) is unemployed as a direct result of a natural
18 disaster that results in a disaster declaration by the president of
19 the United States under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
20 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. Section 5121 et seq.);

21 (2) is otherwise eligible for unemployment
22 compensation benefits under this subtitle; and

23 (3) is not receiving disaster unemployment assistance
24 benefits for the period included in that waiting period.

1 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only
2 to a claim for unemployment compensation benefits that is filed
3 with the Texas Workforce Commission on or after the effective date
4 of this Act. A claim filed before that date is governed by the law
5 in effect on the date that the claim was filed, and the former law is
6 continued in effect for that purpose.

7 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.