

1-1 By: Ellis S.B. No. 111
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed November 10, 2008; February 10, 2009,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Business and Commerce;
1-4 March 25, 2009, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 6,
1-5 Nays 0; March 25, 2009, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to suspension of the unemployment compensation waiting
1-9 period requirement during a disaster subject to a federal disaster
1-10 declaration.

1-11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-12 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 207, Labor Code, is
1-13 amended by adding Section 207.0212 to read as follows:

1-14 Sec. 207.0212. ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN PERSONS UNEMPLOYED
1-15 BECAUSE OF DISASTER. (a) In this section, "disaster unemployment
1-16 assistance benefits" means benefits authorized under Section 410,
1-17 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
1-18 U.S.C. Section 5177), and rules adopted under that section.

1-19 (b) Notwithstanding Section 207.021, the governor, by
1-20 executive order, may suspend the waiting period requirement imposed
1-21 under Section 207.021(a)(7) to authorize an individual to receive
1-22 benefits for that waiting period if the individual:

1-23 (1) is unemployed as a direct result of a natural
1-24 disaster that results in a disaster declaration by the president of
1-25 the United States under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
1-26 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. Section 5121 et seq.);

1-27 (2) is otherwise eligible for unemployment
1-28 compensation benefits under this subtitle; and

1-29 (3) is not receiving disaster unemployment assistance
1-30 benefits for the period included in that waiting period.

1-31 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only
1-32 to a claim for unemployment compensation benefits that is filed
1-33 with the Texas Workforce Commission on or after the effective date
1-34 of this Act. A claim filed before that date is governed by the law
1-35 in effect on the date that the claim was filed, and the former law is
1-36 continued in effect for that purpose.

1-37 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

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