

By: Ellis, Lucio

S.B. No. 742

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to eligibility of certain job trainees for extended unemployment compensation benefits.

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

SECTION 1. Section 209.041, Labor Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 209.041. ELIGIBILITY FOR EXTENDED BENEFITS. (a) An individual is eligible to receive extended benefits for a benefit period of unemployment in the individual's eligibility period if, with respect to the benefit period, the individual:

(1) has exhausted all regular benefits;

(2) satisfies the requirements of this subtitle for the receipt of regular benefits that are applicable to an individual claiming extended benefits, including not being disqualified for the receipt of benefits; and

(3) has within the individual's base period received benefit wage credits for employment by employers in an amount not less than:

(A) 40 times the individual's weekly benefit amount; or

(B) 1-1/2 times the individual's high-quarter benefit wage credits.

(b) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), an individual is also eligible to receive extended benefits for a benefit period of

unemployment in the individual's eligibility period as provided by Subchapter F.

SECTION 2. Chapter 209, Labor Code, is amended by adding Subchapter F to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER F. EXTENDED BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS ENROLLED
IN CERTAIN TRAINING PROGRAMS

Sec. 209.101. ELIGIBILITY FOR EXTENDED BENEFITS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, an individual is entitled to extended benefits as provided by this subchapter if the individual:

(1) is unemployed;

(2) has exhausted all regular benefits; and

(3) is enrolled in, and making satisfactory progress toward completion of, a commission-approved training program under Section 207.022 or a job training program under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. Section 2801 et seq.) designed to prepare individuals who have been separated from a declining occupation or who have been involuntarily and indefinitely separated from employment as a result of a permanent reduction of operations at the individual's place of employment.

Sec. 209.102. DURATION AND AMOUNT OF EXTENDED BENEFITS.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, an eligible individual under Section 209.101 is entitled to receive extended benefits under this subchapter until the earlier of:

(1) the date the individual completes the training program; or

(2) the expiration of 26 additional benefit periods.

1 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter,
2 the weekly amount of extended benefits payable to an eligible
3 individual under Section 209.101 is an amount equal to the
4 individual's average weekly benefit amount for the most recent
5 benefit year.

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

12 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
13 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
14 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
15 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
16 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.