

By: Reynolds

H.B. No. 1995

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the requirement that an unemployed individual be
3 actively seeking work to be eligible for unemployment compensation
4 benefits.

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

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

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

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

14 (2) has made a claim for benefits under Section
15 208.001;

16 (3) is able to work;

17 (4) is available for and actively seeking work;

18 (5) for the individual's base period, has benefit wage
19 credits:

20 (A) in at least two calendar quarters; and

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

23 (6) after the beginning date of the individual's most
24 recent prior benefit year, if applicable, earned wages in an amount

1 equal to not less than six times the individual's benefit amount;

2 (7) has been totally or partially unemployed for a
3 waiting period of at least seven consecutive days; and

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

10 (A) the individual has completed participation
11 in such a service; or

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

15 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
16 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
17 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
18 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
19 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.