

By: Eltife
(Reynolds)

S.B. No. 920

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the requirement that an unemployed individual be actively seeking work to be eligible for unemployment compensation benefits.

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

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

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

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

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

(3) is able to work;

(4) is available for work;

(5) is actively seeking work in accordance with rules adopted by the commission;

(6) for the individual's base period, has benefit wage credits:

(A) in at least two calendar quarters; and

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

1 (7) [~~(6)~~] after the beginning date of the individual's
2 most recent prior benefit year, if applicable, earned wages in an
3 amount equal to not less than six times the individual's benefit
4 amount;

5 (8) [~~(7)~~] has been totally or partially unemployed for
6 a waiting period of at least seven consecutive days; and

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

13 (A) the individual has completed participation
14 in such a service; or

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

18 SECTION 2. Subsection (b), Section 207.0212, Labor Code, is
19 amended to read as follows:

20 (b) Notwithstanding Section 207.021, the governor, by
21 executive order, may suspend the waiting period requirement imposed
22 under Section 207.021(a)(8) [~~207.021(a)(7)~~] to authorize an
23 individual to receive benefits for that waiting period if the
24 individual:

25 (1) is unemployed as a direct result of a natural
26 disaster that results in a disaster declaration by the president of
27 the United States under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and

1 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. Section 5121 et seq.);

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

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

6 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
7 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
8 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
9 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
10 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.