

By: Thierry

H.B. No. 1985

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a temporary waiver of certain unemployment benefit eligibility conditions during a public health disaster.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 207, Labor Code, is amended by adding Section 207.0213 to read as follows:

Sec. 207.0213. TEMPORARY WAIVER OF CERTAIN ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS DURING PUBLIC HEALTH DISASTER. (a) In this section, "public health disaster" has the meaning assigned by Section 81.003, Health and Safety Code.

(b) Notwithstanding Section 207.021, during a statewide public health disaster, the commission shall suspend the following eligibility conditions to authorize an individual who is otherwise eligible to receive benefits under this subtitle to receive those benefits:

(1) the condition imposed under Section 207.021(a)(5) that an individual be actively seeking work; and

(2) the condition imposed under Section 207.021(a)(8) that an individual has been totally or partially unemployed for a waiting period.

(c) The period of a suspension imposed under Subsection (b) begins on the date the public health disaster is declared. The commission may reinstate the conditions described by Subsections (b)(1) and (2) only after the public health disaster expires.

1           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
2 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
3 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
4 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
5 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.