

By: Button

H.B. No. 2586

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to participation in reemployment services as a condition of eligibility for unemployment benefits.

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

SECTION 1. Section 207.021(a), 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;

(7) after the beginning date of the individual's most

1 recent prior benefit year, if applicable, earned wages in an amount
2 equal to not less than six times the individual's benefit amount;

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

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

11 [~~(A) the individual has completed participation~~
12 ~~in such a service; or~~

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

16 SECTION 2. Section 207.021(a), Labor Code, as amended by
17 this Act, applies only to a claim for unemployment compensation
18 benefits that is filed with the Texas Workforce Commission on or
19 after the effective date of this Act. A claim filed before the
20 effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the
21 date the claim was filed, and the former law is continued in effect
22 for that purpose.

23 SECTION 3. As soon as practicable after the effective date
24 of this Act, the Texas Workforce Commission shall adopt rules to
25 implement Section 207.021(a), Labor Code, as amended by this Act.

26 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.