

By: Vo

H.B. No. 3698

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, if:

7 (A) the individual has been determined,  
8 according to a profiling system established by the commission, to  
9 be likely to exhaust eligibility for regular benefits and to need  
10 those services to obtain new employment, unless:

11 (i) the commission has determined that  
12 ~~[(A)]~~ the individual has completed participation in such a service;  
13 or

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

17 (B) unless there is reasonable cause, as  
18 determined by the commission, for the individual's failure to  
19 participate in those services, the commission determines that:

20 (i) the individual's participation is in  
21 furtherance of the goals stated in Section 306(b), Social Security  
22 Act (42 U.S.C. Section 506(b)); and

23 (ii) the reemployment services meet the  
24 standards for evidence-based interventions described by Section  
25 306(c), Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. Section 506(c)).

26 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
27 to a claim for unemployment compensation benefits filed with the

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1 Texas Workforce Commission on or after the effective date of this  
2 Act. A claim filed before the effective date of this Act is  
3 governed by the law in effect on the date the claim was filed, and  
4 the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

5 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.