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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 3021**

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**State of Washington**

**55th Legislature**

**1998 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Commerce & Labor (originally sponsored by Representatives Boldt, McMorris, Honeyford, Thompson and Mulliken)

Read first time 02/05/98. Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring proof of seeking work for unemployment  
2 compensation benefits; amending RCW 50.20.010; and adding a new section  
3 to chapter 50.20 RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 50.20.010 and 1995 c 381 s 1 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 An unemployed individual shall be eligible to receive waiting  
8 period credits or benefits with respect to any week in his or her  
9 eligibility period only if the commissioner finds that:

10 (1) He or she has registered for work at, and thereafter has  
11 continued to report at, an employment office in accordance with such  
12 regulation as the commissioner may prescribe, except that the  
13 commissioner may by regulation waive or alter either or both of the  
14 requirements of this subdivision as to individuals attached to regular  
15 jobs and as to such other types of cases or situations with respect to  
16 which the commissioner finds that the compliance with such requirements  
17 would be oppressive, or would be inconsistent with the purposes of this  
18 title;

1 (2) He or she has filed an application for an initial determination  
2 and made a claim for waiting period credit or for benefits in  
3 accordance with the provisions of this title;

4 (3) He or she is able to work, and is available for work in any  
5 trade, occupation, profession, or business for which he or she is  
6 reasonably fitted. To be available for work an individual must be  
7 ready, able, and willing, immediately to accept any suitable work which  
8 may be offered to him or her and must be actively seeking work pursuant  
9 to customary trade practices and through other methods when so directed  
10 by the commissioner or the commissioner's agents. Except for those  
11 individuals with employer attachment or union referral, and individuals  
12 in commissioner-approved training, an individual who has received five  
13 or more weeks of benefits under this title must provide evidence of  
14 seeking work, as directed by the commissioner or commissioner's agents,  
15 for each week beyond five in which a claim is filed, including  
16 providing at least three different employer contacts per week  
17 acknowledging that the individual had sought work with the employer;

18 (4) He or she has been unemployed for a waiting period of one week;

19 (5) He or she participates in reemployment services if the  
20 individual has been referred to reemployment services pursuant to the  
21 profiling system established by the commissioner under RCW 50.20.011,  
22 unless the commissioner determines that:

23 (a) The individual has completed such services; or

24 (b) There is justifiable cause for the claimant's failure to  
25 participate in such services; and

26 (6) As to weeks beginning after March 31, 1981, which fall within  
27 an extended benefit period as defined in RCW 50.22.010, the individual  
28 meets the terms and conditions of RCW 50.22.020 with respect to  
29 benefits claimed in excess of twenty-six times the individual's weekly  
30 benefit amount.

31 An individual's eligibility period for regular benefits shall be  
32 coincident to his or her established benefit year. An individual's  
33 eligibility period for additional or extended benefits shall be the  
34 periods prescribed elsewhere in this title for such benefits.

35 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 50.20 RCW  
36 to read as follows:

37 The employment security department must ensure that, within a  
38 reasonably short period of time after the initiation of benefits, all

1 unemployment insurance claimants register for job search in an  
2 electronic labor exchange system that supports direct employer access  
3 for selecting job applicants. Those claimants with employer attachment  
4 or union referral, claimants in commissioner-approved training, or  
5 claimants who are the subject of antiharassment orders are excepted  
6 from this registration requirement.

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