
HOUSE BILL 2578

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Representatives Jinkins, Manweller, Gregerson, McCabe, G. Hunt, Tharinger, Rossetti, and Zeiger

Read first time 01/15/16. Referred to Committee on Labor & Workplace Standards.

1 AN ACT Relating to job search requirements for unemployment
2 compensation claimants; amending RCW 50.20.240; creating a new
3 section; and providing an effective date.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 50.20.240 and 2006 c 13 s 16 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1)(a) To ensure that following the initial application for
8 benefits, an individual is actively engaged in searching for work,
9 the employment security department shall implement a job search
10 monitoring program. Effective January 4, 2004, the department shall
11 contract with employment security agencies in other states to ensure
12 that individuals residing in those states and receiving benefits
13 under this title are actively engaged in searching for work in
14 accordance with the requirements of this section. The department may
15 use interactive voice technology and other electronic means to ensure
16 that individuals are subject to comparable job search monitoring,
17 regardless of whether they reside in Washington or elsewhere.

18 (b)(i) Except for those individuals with employer attachment or
19 union referral, individuals who qualify for unemployment compensation
20 under RCW 50.20.050 (1)(b)(iv) or (2)(b)(iv), as applicable, and
21 individuals in commissioner-approved training, an individual who has

1 received five or more weeks of benefits under this title, regardless
2 of whether the individual resides in Washington or elsewhere, must
3 provide evidence of seeking work, as directed by the commissioner or
4 the commissioner's agents, for each week beyond five in which a claim
5 is filed. ~~((With regard to claims with an effective date before
6 January 4, 2004, the evidence must demonstrate contacts with at least
7 three employers per week or documented in-person job search activity
8 at the local reemployment center. With regard to claims with an
9 effective date on or after January 4, 2004,))~~

10 (ii) The evidence must ((demonstrate)) document at least three
11 instances per week of any combination of the following:

12 (A) Contacts with ((at least three)) employers ((per week or
13 documented));

14 (B) Approved in-person job search activities at the local
15 reemployment center ((at least three times per week));

16 (C) Approved in-person activities with a career counselor at an
17 accredited institution of higher education; or

18 (D) Job search activity by other methods as defined in rule.

19 (c) In developing the requirements for the job search monitoring
20 program, the commissioner or the commissioner's agents shall utilize
21 an existing advisory committee having equal representation of
22 employers and workers.

23 (2) ~~((Effective January 4, 2004,))~~ An individual who fails to
24 comply fully with the requirements for actively seeking work under
25 RCW 50.20.010 shall lose all benefits for all weeks during which the
26 individual was not in compliance, and the individual shall be liable
27 for repayment of all such benefits under RCW 50.20.190.

28 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. If any provision of this act or its
29 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
30 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
31 persons or circumstances is not affected.

32 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. If any part of this act is found to be in
33 conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to
34 the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of
35 employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the
36 conflicting part of this act is inoperative solely to the extent of
37 the conflict, and such finding or determination does not affect the
38 operation of the remainder of this act. Rules adopted under this act

1 must meet federal requirements that are a necessary condition to the
2 receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal
3 unemployment tax credits to employers in this state.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act takes effect July 3, 2016.

--- END ---