

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 153

BY REPRESENTATIVE HEBERT

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 23:1600(3)(a) and (b)(i) and 1601(3)(introductory paragraph)
3 and to enact R.S. 23:1601(3)(c), relative to unemployment benefits; to revise the
4 benefit eligibility requirements for unemployment benefits; to provide for when a
5 claimant may be disqualified for unemployment benefits; to provide the method and
6 manner for reporting suspected violations of failing to satisfy work search
7 requirements; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 23:1600(3)(a) and (b)(i) and 1601(3)(introductory paragraph) are
10 hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 23:1601(3)(c) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §1600. Benefit eligibility conditions

12 An unemployed individual shall be eligible to receive benefits only if the
13 administrator finds that:

14 * * *

15 (3)(a) He is able to work, available for work, and is ~~conducting an active~~
16 ~~search for work~~ actively seeking work by conducting no fewer than five work search
17 actions for each week in which he makes a claim for benefits. The administrator
18 shall, by regulation, prescribe the actions which shall be considered valid work
19 search actions.

20 (b)(i) For the purpose of this Section, a claimant ~~shall have~~ has satisfied the
21 requirements of making an active search for work if he is pursuing a course of action
22 to become reemployed as contained in his eligibility review and reemployment

1 assistance plan approved by the administrator and consistent with Subparagraph (a)
 2 of this Paragraph. The reemployment assistance plan shall not contain factors which,
 3 when judged on the basis of reasonableness for a similarly unemployed worker to
 4 follow, would be contrary to the individual's interest, taking into account the
 5 claimant's qualifications for work, the distance of his residence from employing
 6 establishments, his prior work history, and current labor market conditions related
 7 to his normal and customary occupation.

8 * * *

9 §1601. Disqualification for benefits

10 An individual shall be disqualified for benefits:

11 * * *

12 (3) If the administrator finds that he has failed, without good cause, either
 13 to apply for available, suitable work ~~when so directed by the administrator~~ or to
 14 accept suitable work within the time frame contained in the offer when work is
 15 offered to him, appear for a previously scheduled job interview, or to return to his
 16 customary self-employment, if any, or participate in an approved training program
 17 when so directed by the administrator. Such disqualification shall continue until
 18 such time as the claimant (a) can demonstrate that he has been paid wages for work
 19 subject to the Louisiana Employment Security Law or the unemployment insurance
 20 law of any other state or the United States, equivalent to at least ten times his weekly
 21 benefit amount following the week in which the disqualifying act occurred and (b)
 22 has not left his last work under disqualifying circumstances.

23 * * *

24 (c) The administrator shall prescribe a form that allows employers to report
 25 suspected violations of this Paragraph via online or electronic submission. The
 26 administrator shall make the form available to all employers, and, at least annually,
 27 inform employers about the importance of reporting work search violations by
 28 claimants.

29 * * *

1 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on December 31, 2025.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____