

2020 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 46

BY REPRESENTATIVE JAMES

UNEMPLOYMENT COMP: Requests the Louisiana Workforce Commission to promote access to unemployment insurance benefits by improving wait times for filing claims

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Workforce Commission to study and identify solutions
3 for promoting access to unemployment insurance benefits, such as improving wait
4 times for filing claims.

5 WHEREAS, pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency
6 Assistance and Disaster Act, La. R.S. 29:721 et seq., the governor declared a public health
7 emergency in Proclamation Number 25 JBE 2020; and

8 WHEREAS, the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 and the effects of its extreme risk
9 of person-to-person transmission throughout the United States and Louisiana significantly
10 threatens the safety, health, and security of the residents of the state; and

11 WHEREAS, COVID-19 has had an economic impact resulting in approximately four
12 hundred thousand jobless workers in the state of Louisiana receiving federal or state
13 unemployment compensation benefits compared with about thirteen thousand jobless
14 workers around this same quarter in 2019; and

15 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Workforce Commission is responsible for the processing
16 of hundreds of thousands of continued claims for unemployment compensation on a weekly
17 basis; and

18 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Workforce Commission is receiving more than
19 approximately seven hundred and ten thousand claims, which places an unprecedented
20 burden on call center staff, adjudicators, and computer servers; and

1 WHEREAS, individuals have reported an estimated average for wait times of over
2 an hour when filing claims or reaching the HiRE Help Desk by phone; and

3 WHEREAS, approximately twenty-five percent of Louisiana households do not have
4 access to broadband internet in their homes and therefore cannot easily file unemployment
5 claims or weekly certifications online; and

6 WHEREAS, since these Louisiana households do not have access to broadband
7 internet, claimants must call in to file unemployment claims or weekly certifications and
8 should not be further burdened by having to suffer long wait times in order to file such
9 claims and weekly certifications.

10 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of
11 the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Workforce
12 Commission to study and identify solutions for promoting access to the unemployment
13 insurance benefits, such as improving wait times for filing.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
15 secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 46 Original

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