

Prior law provided that a former employee can be disqualified for unemployment benefits under certain circumstances.

Prior law provided that when a former employee is disqualified from receiving unemployment benefits, the employer's experience rating account shall not be charged under certain circumstances so long as the employer timely filed notice.

Prior law provided that in making determinations of unemployment claims, the administrator shall require that information necessary for the prompt determination of claims be sought from each employer. Prior law provided that a response to such requests shall be timely if it is received within 10 days of mailing

New law changes the time in which to respond to the notice from 10 days from the date of mailing to the time specified in the notice.

Prior law provided that the employer must complete all forms and reports that are requested by the administrator of the office of workers' compensation.

New law changes the requirement that forms be completed by employers from "as requested" to "as needed".

New law retains prior law but provides that a response is adequate if it provides sufficient facts to enable the agency to make the correct determination.

New law provides that a response may not be considered inadequate if the agency failed to ask for all necessary information.

New law provides that no contributing employer's reserve account or reimbursable employer's account shall be relieved of any charges for benefits relating to an improper benefit payment to a claimant established after October 21, 2013, if the improper benefit payment was made because the employer, or an agent of the employer, was at fault for failing to respond timely or adequately to the request of the administrator for information relating to a claim for benefits.

New law provides the following definitions:

- (1) "Employer's reserve account" means that employer's account which contains the amounts of money held in reserve to pay unemployment benefit claims to covered individuals who were employed by the employer.
- (2) "Reimbursable employer's account" means that accounting method used by the unemployment administrator to invoice the state, its political subdivisions, nonprofit organizations, and Indian tribes or tribal units for unemployment benefits paid to covered individuals who were employed by such entities.

Effective August 1, 2014.

(Amends R.S. 23:1625.1(A) and (B); adds R.S. 23:1553.1)