



1           WHEREAS, unemployment compensation is vital to dual-income military families  
2 who cannot afford an extended period of one income during a mandatory military relocation;  
3 and

4           WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of Defense, working military  
5 spouses lose approximately six to nine months of salary per relocation; and

6           WHEREAS, R.S. 23:1601 outlines the instances in which an individual may be  
7 disqualified from unemployment benefits, including instances in which an employee  
8 voluntarily leaves his job, as well as certain exceptions; and

9           WHEREAS, according to the Military Officers Association of America, as of  
10 February 2015, forty-six states and the District of Columbia enable military spouses who  
11 have been forced to leave employment as a result of a mandatory military relocation to  
12 receive unemployment benefits; and

13           WHEREAS, throughout our nation, states use the following differing approaches to  
14 the issue of unemployment compensation eligibility for military spouses: eligible as long as  
15 other general eligibility criteria are met, eligible upon review of the circumstances by the  
16 administrator at the military spouse's request, eligible after a period of ineligibility, or  
17 ineligible as a result of a military relocation; and

18           WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana can propose legislation which would allow  
19 an exception to disqualification for benefits in instances in which a military spouse  
20 voluntarily leaves employment in order to relocate with his or her family pursuant to military  
21 orders as long as the other factors for eligibility are met; and

22           WHEREAS, our vital, dedicated military service members can be more effective at  
23 the serious business of defending our country knowing their families are financially secure.

24           THEREFORE, the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana requests  
25 the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations to study the feasibility of creating  
26 an exception to the disqualification for unemployment compensation benefits for military  
27 spouses who must relocate out of state pursuant to military orders and to report its findings  
28 to the House of Representatives prior to the convening of the 2016 Regular Session.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House Committee on Labor and Industrial  
2 Relations may seek input from interested stakeholders, including but not limited to the  
3 Louisiana Workforce Commission and the Department of Military Affairs.

---

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)]

---

HSR 4 Original

2015 Regular Session

Barrow

Urges the House of Representatives Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations to study the feasibility of creating an exception to the disqualification for unemployment compensation benefits for military spouses who must relocate out of state pursuant to military orders.