

2020 First Extraordinary Session
HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 46
BY REPRESENTATIVE JAMES

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES