

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 153

BY REPRESENTATIVE HEBERT

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMP: Provides relative to work search requirements for unemployment benefits

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 23:1600(3)(a) and (b)(i) and 1601(3) and to enact R.S.
3 23:1601(3)(c), relative to unemployment benefits; to revise the benefit eligibility
4 requirements for unemployment benefits; to provide for when a claimant may be
5 disqualified for unemployment benefits; to provide the method and manner for
6 reporting suspected violations of failing to satisfy work search requirements; to
7 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) are hereby amended and
10 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.

Proposed law revises present law to instead provide that a claimant will be disqualified for benefits if the secretary finds that he has failed, without good cause, to do any of the following:

- (1) Apply for available, suitable work.
- (2) Accept suitable work within the time frame contained in the offer when work is offered to him.
- (3) Appear for a previously scheduled job interview.
- (4) Return to his customary self-employment.
- (5) Participate in an approved training program.

Proposed law requires the secretary to prescribe a form that allows employers to report any suspected violations of proposed law (R.S. 23:1601(3)) via online or electronic submission. Proposed law further requires the secretary to make the form available to all employers and, at least annually, inform employers about the importance of reporting work search violations.

Effective Dec. 31, 2025.

(Amends R.S. 23:1600(3)(a) and (b)(i) and 1601(3); Adds R.S. 23:1601(3)(c))