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## DIGEST

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HB 153 Original

2025 Regular Session

Hebert

**Abstract:** Revises provisions of law relative to work search requirements for claimants of unemployment benefits.

Present law provides a list of requirements that a claimant must satisfy in order to be considered eligible for unemployment benefits. One of those requirements provided for in present law is that the claimant must prove that he is able to work, available for work, and is conducting an active search for work.

Proposed law modifies the aforementioned work search requirement by requiring a claimant to be able to work, available for work, and actively seeking work by conducting no fewer than five work search actions for each week he makes a claim for unemployment benefits. Proposed law further provides that the secretary of the La. Workforce Commission (LWC) shall prescribe what actions are deemed as valid work search actions.

Present law provides that a claimant is considered to have satisfied the active work search requirements, if he is pursuing a course of action to become reemployed as contained in his eligibility review and reemployment assistance plan approved by the administrator.

Proposed law extends present law to require that the claimant must satisfy the aforementioned requirements in addition to satisfying the work search requirements provided for in present law (R.S. 23:1600(3)(a)) as amended.

Present law prohibits the reemployment assistance plan from containing factors that, when judged on the basis of reasonableness for a similarly unemployed worker to follow, would be contrary to the individual's interest. Present law requires the reemployment assistance plan to take into consideration the claimant's qualification for work, the distance of his residence from employing establishments, his prior work history, and the current labor market conditions related to his normal and customary occupation.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides a list of situations whereby an individual can be disqualified for unemployment benefits. One of these situations provided for in present law is that a claimant will be disqualified for benefits if the secretary of LWC finds that he has failed, without good cause, to do any of the following:

- (1) Apply for available, suitable work when directed by the secretary.
- (2) Accept suitable work when offered to him.
- (3) Return to his customary self-employment, if any, when directed by the secretary.

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))