



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **HB 153** HLS 25RS 725
Bill Text Version: **REENGROSSED**
Opp. Chamb. Action:

Proposed Amd.:
Sub. Bill For.:

Date: May 5, 2025	7:41 PM	Author: HEBERT
Dept./Agy.: Workforce Commission		
Subject: Unemployment compensation work search requirements.		Analyst: Mimi Blanchard

UNEMPLOYMENT COMP RE SEE FISC NOTE GF RV See Note Page 1 of 1
Provides relative to work search requirements for unemployment benefits

Current law provides that an otherwise eligible individual may receive unemployment compensation benefits if they are able to work, available for work, and conducting an active search for work. Benefit disqualification criteria include failure to apply for suitable work, accept suitable work when offered, and return to self-employment, if any. Additionally, the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) administers an unemployment insurance integrity program to verify eligibility and prevent fraudulent claims.

Proposed law specifies 5 work search activities per week and directs the LWC administrator to define valid work search actions. The bill expands disqualification criteria to include failure to appear for a scheduled job interview and failure to participate in approved training programs, when so directed by the administrator. Proposed law requires the LWC to provide an electronic form for employers to report suspected violations and mandates annual employer outreach on the importance of reporting work search violations.

Effective December 31, 2025.

EXPENDITURES	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$12,331	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$12,331
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total	\$12,331	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$12,331

REVENUES	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

LWC is anticipated to incur estimated costs of \$12,331 in Federal funds in FY 26. These costs are related to support, upgrades, modifications, and testing of the Interactive Voice Response System (IVR) used by the call center and the Helping Individuals Reach Employment (HIRE) System used to track weekly benefit claims and work search attestations. LWC reports these costs may be absorbed within the existing budget for FY 26.

The bill codifies 5 work search actions a claimant must make each week to be eligible for unemployment benefits. Currently, LWC rules require a claimant to make three weekly work search actions. Search actions are defined via rule promulgation by the department. LWC reports an average of approximately 800 claimants have been disqualified annually from 2022-2024 due to a failure to meet the existing work search criteria.

The bill expands the possible criteria administrators use to disqualify a claimant from receiving benefits to include (1) failure to appear for a scheduled interview and (2) failure to participate in approved training programs, when so directed by the administrator. LWC is required to provide a method for reporting suspected participants who fail to appear for a scheduled interview. The department anticipates no additional expenditures for processing these reports, as they have been accepting them since February 2024. Since then, 3,591 failure-to-report-for-an-interview forms have been submitted, resulting in 29 (0.008%) disqualifications. Some forms included individuals who were not claimants for unemployment benefits.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

<u>Senate</u>	<u>Dual Referral Rules</u>	<u>House</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}		<input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}	
<input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}		<input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}	<div>Deborah Vivien Chief Economist</div>