



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Bill Analysis

Kailey M. Henry

H.B. 679

132nd General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Rep. Barnes

BILL SUMMARY

- Prohibits a claimant's weekly unemployment benefits from being reduced by the amount of compensation the claimant receives with respect to that week for participating in a qualifying training course.
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CONTENT AND OPERATION

Unemployment benefits while participating in a qualifying training course

The bill enacts the "Seeking Career Ladder Opportunities Act" to prohibit a claimant's unemployment benefits for any week from being reduced by the amount of compensation that the claimant receives with respect to that week for participating in a qualifying training course, regardless of whether the claimant would otherwise be considered partially unemployed (see "**Partial unemployment**," below). A qualifying training course is one that prepares the claimant for an in-demand job in Ohio and its regions and is approved by the Director of Job and Family Services pursuant to the rules the Director must adopt under the bill. A claimant participating in an approved training course under the bill meets the continuing law requirement that a claimant must be able to work and available for and actively searching for work to maintain eligibility for unemployment benefits.¹

Partial unemployment

Under continuing law, an individual is "partially unemployed" in any week if, due to involuntary loss of work, the total compensation payable to the individual for

¹ R.C. 4141.313 and Section 2, by reference to R.C. 4141.29 and 4141.30, not in the bill.

that week is less than the individual's weekly unemployment benefit amount.² An individual who works part-time or performs odd jobs during weeks when the individual also files for unemployment benefits may still be eligible to receive unemployment benefits if the individual's earnings are less than the individual's weekly benefit amount.

An individual filing claims for unemployment benefits is required to report gross earnings for the week (Sunday through Saturday) that those earnings are earned, even if the individual has not been paid the earnings at the time of filing. Ohio law allows for an earning exemption of up to 20% of an individual's weekly benefit amount before a deduction is made.³ For example, an individual with a weekly unemployment benefit amount of \$400 has an earning exemption of \$80 ($\$400 \times 20\%$). If that individual earned income during the week of \$200, the individual would receive unemployment benefits for that week as follows:

\$400	(weekly benefit amount)
<u>-\$120</u>	(weekly earnings minus the earning exemption of \$80)
\$280	(unemployment benefits received)

If the individual had weekly earnings of \$80 (the individual's earning exemption) or less during a week in which the individual also received unemployment benefits, the individual's unemployment benefit would not be reduced and the individual would receive the full \$400 in addition to the earned income.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	05-22-18

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² R.C. 4141.01(N), not in the bill.

³ R.C. 4141.30(C), not in the bill.

