

As Introduced

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Representatives Crawley, Leland

Cosponsors: Representatives Brent, Lightbody, Kelly, Miranda, Crossman, Miller, J., Liston, O'Brien, Russo, Lepore-Hagan, Boggs, Sobecki, Galonski, Weinstein, Smith, K.

A BILL

To temporarily change eligibility and work search 1
requirements under the Unemployment Compensation 2
Law and to declare an emergency. 3

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. (A) As used in this section: 4

(1) "Average weekly wage," "base period," "benefit year," 5
"benefits," "claim for benefits," "employment," "qualifying 6
week," "remuneration," and "unemployed" have the same meanings 7
as in section 4141.01 of the Revised Code. 8

(2) "Special needs child" means a child who is less than 9
eighteen years of age and either has one or more chronic health 10
conditions or does not meet age appropriate expectations in one 11
or more areas of development, including social, emotional, 12
cognitive, communicative, perceptual, motor, physical, and 13
behavioral development and that may require on a regular basis 14
services, adaptations, modifications, or adjustments needed to 15
assist in the child's function or development. 16

(B) (1) Notwithstanding the requirements to establish a
valid application for a determination of benefit rights
specified in division (R) of section 4141.01 of the Revised
Code, for a benefit year that begins during the period of the
emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-03D, issued on March
16, 2020, any application for determination of benefit rights
made in accordance with section 4141.28 of the Revised Code is
valid if all of the following apply:

(a) The individual filing the application is unemployed;

(b) The individual has been employed by an employer or
employers subject to Chapter 4141. of the Revised Code in at
least twenty qualifying weeks within the individual's base
period;

(c) The individual has earned or been paid remuneration at
an average weekly wage of not less than seventeen and one-half
per cent of the statewide average weekly wage for such weeks;

(d) Except as provided in division (C) (2) of this section,
the individual is not disqualified as described in division (R)
(2) of section 4141.01 of the Revised Code.

(2) An application shall not, however, be considered valid
unless the individual has had employment in six weeks that is
subject to Chapter 4141. of the Revised Code or the unemployment
compensation act of another state, or the United States, and
has, since the beginning of the individual's previous benefit
year, in the employment earned three times the average weekly
wage determined for the previous benefit year. For purposes of
determining whether an individual has had sufficient employment
since the beginning of the individual's previous benefit year to
file a valid application, "employment" means the performance of

services for which remuneration is payable. 46

(C) During the period of the emergency declared by 47
Executive Order 2020-03D, issued on March 16, 2020, both of the 48
following apply: 49

(1) The Director of Job and Family Services shall waive 50
both of the following: 51

(a) For a benefit year that begins during that period of 52
emergency, the requirement that an individual serve a waiting 53
period under division (B) of section 4141.29 of the Revised Code 54
before receiving benefits; 55

(b) The requirement that an individual be actively seeking 56
suitable work under division (A) (4) (a) of section 4141.29 of the 57
Revised Code for any claim for benefits filed on or after the 58
effective date of this section. 59

(2) Notwithstanding division (D) (2) (c) of section 4141.29 60
of the Revised Code, an individual shall not be disqualified 61
from being paid benefits if the individual is unemployed or is 62
unable to return to work because of a family care 63
responsibility, including the need to care for a special needs 64
child or a child who is thirteen years old or younger whose 65
school, daycare, or other care provider has been closed, arising 66
from an order or declaration issued by any of the following: 67

(a) The governor; 68

(b) The board of health of a city health district pursuant 69
to section 3709.20 of the Revised Code; 70

(c) The board of health of a general health district 71
pursuant to section 3709.21 of the Revised Code; 72

(d) A health commissioner pursuant to section 3707.34 of 73

the Revised Code; 74

(e) The department of health pursuant to section 3701.13 75
of the Revised Code. 76

Section 2. This act is hereby declared to be an emergency 77
measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public 78
peace, health, and safety. The reason for such necessity is to 79
minimize the impact to Ohio citizens from the COVID-19 outbreak 80
and help protect further spread of the disease. Therefore, this 81
act shall go into immediate effect. 82