

## RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 151 (HB 153)

2025 Regular Session

Hebert

Existing law provides a list of requirements that a claimant must satisfy in order to be considered eligible for unemployment benefits. New law revises provisions of law relative to work search requirements.

Prior law required a claimant to prove that he was able to work, available for work, and was conducting an active search for work.

New law instead requires 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.

New law allows the secretary of the La. Workforce Commission (LWC) to decide what actions are deemed as valid work search actions.

Prior law provided that a claimant could have satisfied the active work search requirements by pursuing a course of action to become reemployed as contained in his eligibility review and reemployment assistance plan that was approved by the administrator.

New law instead provides that a claimant has 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, in addition to satisfying the work search requirements provided for in new law (R.S. 23:1600(3)(a)).

Existing 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.

Existing 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.

Prior law provided a list of situations in which an individual could be disqualified for unemployment benefits. One of these situations provided for in prior law was that a claimant would be disqualified for benefits if the secretary of LWC found that he had failed, without good cause, to have done any of the following:

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

New law instead provides 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 when directed by the secretary.

New law requires the secretary of LWC to prescribe a form that allows employers to report any suspected violations of new law (R.S. 23:1601(3)) via online or electronic submission.

New law requires the secretary of LWC to make the aforementioned 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)(intro. para.); Adds R.S. 23:1601(3)(c))