
HOUSE BILL 1580

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representative Young

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing community service standards for
2 individuals receiving unemployment benefits; amending RCW 50.20.010;
3 adding a new section to chapter 50.20 RCW; and creating a new
4 section.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that as of October
7 2016, the unemployment rate in Washington was 5.4 percent and there
8 were nearly two hundred thousand unemployed people in the state. The
9 legislature further finds that the performance of community service
10 helps unemployed individuals maintain a connection to the labor
11 market, which in turn increases the ability of an unemployed
12 individual to find permanent employment. The legislature therefore
13 intends to encourage unemployed people to maintain a connection to
14 the labor market by establishing community service standards for
15 individuals receiving unemployment benefits.

16 **Sec. 2.** RCW 50.20.010 and 2006 c 13 s 10 are each amended to
17 read as follows:

18 (1) An unemployed individual shall be eligible to receive waiting
19 period credits or benefits with respect to any week in his or her
20 eligibility period only if the commissioner finds that:

1 (a) He or she has registered for work at, and thereafter has
2 continued to report at, an employment office in accordance with such
3 regulation as the commissioner may prescribe, except that the
4 commissioner may by regulation waive or alter either or both of the
5 requirements of this subdivision as to individuals attached to
6 regular jobs and as to such other types of cases or situations with
7 respect to which the commissioner finds that the compliance with such
8 requirements would be oppressive, or would be inconsistent with the
9 purposes of this title;

10 (b) He or she has filed an application for an initial
11 determination and made a claim for waiting period credit or for
12 benefits in accordance with the provisions of this title;

13 (c) He or she is able to work, and is available for work in any
14 trade, occupation, profession, or business for which he or she is
15 reasonably fitted.

16 (i) With respect to claims that have an effective date before
17 January 4, 2004, to be available for work an individual must be
18 ready, able, and willing, immediately to accept any suitable work
19 which may be offered to him or her and must be actively seeking work
20 pursuant to customary trade practices and through other methods when
21 so directed by the commissioner or the commissioner's agents.

22 (ii) With respect to claims that have an effective date on or
23 after January 4, 2004, to be available for work an individual must be
24 ready, able, and willing, immediately to accept any suitable work
25 which may be offered to him or her and must be actively seeking work
26 pursuant to customary trade practices and through other methods when
27 so directed by the commissioner or the commissioner's agents. If a
28 labor agreement or dispatch rules apply, customary trade practices
29 must be in accordance with the applicable agreement or rules;

30 (d) He or she has been unemployed for a waiting period of one
31 week;

32 (e) He or she participates in reemployment services if the
33 individual has been referred to reemployment services pursuant to the
34 profiling system established by the commissioner under RCW 50.20.011,
35 unless the commissioner determines that:

36 (i) The individual has completed such services; or

37 (ii) There is justifiable cause for the claimant's failure to
38 participate in such services; ((and))

39 (f) With respect to claims that have an effective date on or
40 after August 28, 2017, he or she performs for every four weeks of

1 unemployment benefits received at least: (i) Twenty hours of
2 community service; or (ii) fifteen hours of community service as a
3 volunteer firefighter; and

4 (g) As to weeks beginning after March 31, 1981, which fall within
5 an extended benefit period as defined in RCW 50.22.010, the
6 individual meets the terms and conditions of RCW 50.22.020 with
7 respect to benefits claimed in excess of twenty-six times the
8 individual's weekly benefit amount.

9 (2) An individual's eligibility period for regular benefits shall
10 be coincident to his or her established benefit year. An individual's
11 eligibility period for additional or extended benefits shall be the
12 periods prescribed elsewhere in this title for such benefits.

13 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 50.20
14 RCW to read as follows:

15 The commissioner may adopt rules as necessary to implement RCW
16 50.20.010(1)(f), including the establishment of standards for
17 documenting and reporting community service hours worked.

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