

By the Committee on Commerce and Economic Opportunities; and  
Senators Mitchell and Meek

310-1759-99

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31

A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to unemployment compensation;  
amending s. 443.101, F.S.; redefining the term  
"good cause" to include circumstances resulting  
from domestic violence; providing an effective  
date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section  
443.101, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

443.101 Disqualification for benefits.--An individual  
shall be disqualified for benefits:

(1)(a) For the week in which he or she has voluntarily  
left his or her work without good cause attributable to his or  
her employing unit or in which the individual has been  
discharged by his or her employing unit for misconduct  
connected with his or her work, if so found by the division.  
The term "work," as used in this paragraph, means any work,  
whether full-time, part-time, or temporary.

1. Disqualification for voluntarily quitting shall  
continue for the full period of unemployment next ensuing  
after he or she has left his or her work voluntarily without  
good cause and until such individual has earned income equal  
to or in excess of 17 times his or her weekly benefit amount;  
"good cause" as used in this subsection shall include only  
such cause as is attributable to the employing unit or which  
consists of illness or disability of the individual requiring  
separation from his or her work, or in which an individual is  
separated from work due to circumstances directly resulting  
from the individual's experience of domestic violence.

1           a. An individual's separation from work shall be  
2 treated as due to circumstances directly resulting from the  
3 individual's experience of domestic violence if the individual  
4 establishes satisfactory proof, including corroborating  
5 evidence, that the separation resulted from one of the  
6 following grounds:

7           (I) The individual's reasonable fear of future  
8 domestic violence at or en route to or from the individual's  
9 place of work;

10           (II) The individual's wish to relocate to another  
11 geographic area in order to avoid future domestic violence  
12 against the individual or the individual's family;

13           (III) The individual's need to recover from traumatic  
14 stress resulting from the individual's experience of domestic  
15 violence; or

16           (IV) Any other circumstance in which domestic violence  
17 causes the individual to reasonably believe that termination  
18 of work is necessary for the future safety of the individual  
19 or the individual's family.

20           b. An individual shall not be disqualified under this  
21 subsection for voluntarily leaving temporary work to return  
22 immediately when called to work by the permanent employing  
23 unit that temporarily terminated his or her work within the  
24 previous 6 calendar months.

25           2. Disqualification for being discharged for  
26 misconduct connected with his or her work shall continue for  
27 the full period of unemployment next ensuing after having been  
28 discharged and until such individual has become reemployed and  
29 has earned income not less than 17 times his or her weekly  
30 benefit amount and for not more than 52 weeks which  
31 immediately follow such week, as determined by the division in

1 each case according to the circumstances in each case or the  
2 seriousness of the misconduct, pursuant to rules of the  
3 division enacted for determinations of disqualification for  
4 benefits for misconduct.

5 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.

6

7 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
8 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
9 Senate Bill 1340

9

10 To conform to existing language found in ch. 443, F.S., this  
11 committee substitute makes technical changes to the bill,  
12 changing the word "employee" to "individual" and the word  
13 "employment" to "work." This committee substitute also  
14 requires the individual to establish satisfactory proof,  
15 including corroborating evidence, that separation from work  
16 was for qualifying reasons.

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31