

**STORAGE NAME:** h0637b.bdt

**DATE:** March 21, 2000

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE ON  
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE  
ANALYSIS**

**BILL #:** HB 637

**RELATING TO:** Unemployment Compensation/Domestic Violence

**SPONSOR(S):** Representative Turnbull and others

**TIED BILL(S):**

**ORIGINATING COMMITTEE(S)/COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERENCE:**

- (1) BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE YEAS 9 NAYS 0
  - (2) INSURANCE
  - (3) FAMILY LAW & CHILDREN
  - (4) FINANCE & TAXATION
  - (5)
- 

**I. SUMMARY:**

The bill would amend the disqualification provision for voluntarily leaving work by adding to the meaning of "good cause" the condition of being a victim of domestic violence which results in separation from work.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2000.

The bill does not address the issue of rulemaking.

The Revenue Estimating Conference has yet to address this bill.

**See Amendments or Committee Substitute Changes, Section VI.**

II. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS:

A. DOES THE BILL SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

- |                                   |                              |                             |   |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>Less Government</u>         | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. <u>Lower Taxes</u>             | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. <u>Individual Freedom</u>      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. <u>Personal Responsibility</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. <u>Family Empowerment</u>      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

For any principle that received a "no" above, please explain:

B. PRESENT SITUATION:

Section 443.101(1)(a)1., Florida Statutes, provides that an individual who has voluntarily quit employment is subject to disqualification from receiving unemployment compensation benefits for the full period of unemployment next ensuing after he or she has left work and until such individual has earned income equal to at least 17 times the weekly benefit amount of the claim. However, if the individual leaves work with "good cause," he or she is not subject to disqualification. The term "good cause" is defined as cause attributable to the employing unit or which consists of illness or disability of the individual requiring separation from his or her work.

C. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

The bill would amend s. 443.101(1)(a)1., F.S., allowing victimization through domestic violence as a condition of "good cause" for separation from employment.

D. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS:

This section need be completed only in the discretion of the Committee.

III. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

N/A

2. Expenditures:

N/A

**B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:**

1. Revenues:

N/A

2. Expenditures:

N/A

**C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:**

According to the Department of Labor and Employment Security (DLES), employers may experience a decrease in health insurance premiums.

**D. FISCAL COMMENTS:**

DLES estimates the administrative costs to be \$5000 in the first year and an indeterminate amount in subsequent years.

The Revenue Estimating Conference has yet to review this bill.

**IV. CONSEQUENCES OF ARTICLE VII, SECTION 18 OF THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION:**

**A. APPLICABILITY OF THE MANDATES PROVISION:**

This bill does not require counties or municipalities to spend funds or to take an action requiring the expenditure of funds.

**B. REDUCTION OF REVENUE RAISING AUTHORITY:**

This bill does not reduce the authority that municipalities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate.

**C. REDUCTION OF STATE TAX SHARED WITH COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES:**

This bill does not reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

**V. COMMENTS:**

**A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:**

None.

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**B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:**

None.

**C. OTHER COMMENTS:**

None.

**VI. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:**

On March 21, 2000, the Committee on Business Development and International Trade adopted one amendment. The amendment provides that an individual, who is separated from work due to circumstances directly resulting from domestic violence, must establish satisfactory proof, including corroborating evidence. The proof may include, but is not limited to one of the following: a restraining order or equitable relief, a police record documenting domestic violence, proof of conviction of the domestic violence perpetrator, medical documentation of domestic violence, certification from a certified domestic violence specialist, or other documentation from a professional who assisted the victim in dealing with domestic violence. Further, the amendment designates the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families block grant as the source of funding for payments for unemployment compensation claims regarding domestic violence.

**VII. SIGNATURES:**

**COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE:**

Prepared by:

Staff Director:

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James Marshall Cox

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J. Paul Whitfield, Jr.