

By Senator Wasserman Schultz

40-825-02

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 economic recovery; providing legislative intent; providing criteria, requirements, and limitations on certain training; providing for power and authority of the Agency for Workforce Innovation; providing requirements for expenditure of certain funds; amending s. 443.036, F.S.; providing a definition and an application of an alternative base period; providing requirements and limitations; specifying, for a limited time period, alternative time periods and amounts of certain payments, an increase in weekly benefit amounts, and waiver of a waiting period for certain individuals for unemployment compensation purposes; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. The Legislature finds that businesses and individuals in this state are experiencing significant economic hardship and revenues critical to the delivery of vital public services are jeopardized. Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature to establish policies designed to stimulate economic activity in this state and promote the economic security of the residents of this state. The need to retain and create jobs in this state during the current economic environment is great. A significant investment of state funds in reemployment and retraining programs is essential to economic recovery in this state. The state should

1 invest in economic-recovery training programs that deliver a  
2 high expectation of continued employment after a reasonably  
3 short period of training is completed. Economic-recovery  
4 training funds should be expended on programs that enhance the  
5 skills of residents of this state who are employed by  
6 businesses based in this state.

7 Section 2. Economic-recovery training shall be awarded  
8 to providers of training services on a competitive-bid basis  
9 and shall receive continued payment on a performance-based  
10 schedule not to exceed 12 months. Training agreements may not  
11 be continued with employers who demonstrate a pattern of  
12 failing to provide participants with employment. The Agency  
13 for Workforce Innovation and its controlling board, Workforce  
14 Florida, Inc., shall have power and authority over the use of  
15 economic-recovery training funds pursuant to this act and such  
16 funds shall be expended in accordance with the provisions of  
17 chapter 445, Florida Statutes.

18 Section 3. Subsection (7) of section 443.036, Florida  
19 Statutes, is amended to read:

20 443.036 Definitions.--As used in this chapter, unless  
21 the context clearly requires otherwise:

22 (7) BASE PERIOD.--

23 (a) "Base period" means the first four of the last  
24 five completed calendar quarters immediately preceding the  
25 first day of an individual's benefit year.

26 (b) With respect to a benefit year commencing after  
27 September 1, 2001, if an individual is not monetarily eligible  
28 in his or her base period to qualify for benefits, the  
29 division must designate his or her base period to be the  
30 alternative base period. As used in this paragraph, the term  
31 "alternative base period" means the last four completed

1 calendar quarters immediately preceding the individual's  
2 benefit year. Wages used in a base period to establish a  
3 monetarily eligible benefit year may not be applied to  
4 establish monetary eligibility in any succeeding benefit year.  
5 If information regarding wages for the calendar quarter or  
6 quarters immediately preceding the benefit year is not  
7 available to the division from the regular quarterly reports  
8 of wage information, the division shall request such  
9 information from the employer. Employers shall have 10 days in  
10 which to respond to wage requests from the division.

11       Section 4. (1) Notwithstanding section 443.091(4)(e),  
12 Florida Statutes, the waiting period of 1 week shall be waived  
13 for unemployed individuals eligible to receive benefits.

14       (2) Notwithstanding section 443.111(1)(b), Florida  
15 Statutes, the initial payment of unemployment compensation  
16 benefits shall be for 1 week of compensation and subsequent  
17 compensation shall occur biweekly.

18       (3) Notwithstanding section 443.111(3), Florida  
19 Statutes, the weekly benefit amount determined under section  
20 443.111(3), Florida Statutes, for any individual shall be  
21 increased by the greater of \$25 or 15 percent.

22       (4) This section expires June 30, 2004.

23       Section 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
24 law.

25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31

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

\*\*\*\*\*

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

Provides legislative intent for economic-recovery measures. Provides criteria, requirements, and limitations for economic-recovery training. Provides for use of an alternative base period whenever an individual is not monetarily eligible in a base period to receive unemployment compensation benefits. Specifies, for 2.5 years, alternative time periods and amounts of payments of unemployment compensation, an increase in weekly benefit amounts for unemployment compensation purposes, and a waiver of a waiting period for unemployed individuals eligible to receive benefits. (See bill for details.)