



HB 0857

2003

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to economic recovery; providing  
3 legislative intent; providing criteria, requirements, and  
4 limitations on certain training; providing for power and  
5 authority of the Agency for Workforce Innovation;  
6 providing requirements for expenditure of certain funds;  
7 amending s. 443.036, F.S.; providing a definition and an  
8 application of an alternative base period; providing  
9 requirements and limitations; specifying, for a limited  
10 time period, alternative time periods and amounts of  
11 certain payments, an increase in weekly benefit amounts,  
12 and waiver of a waiting period for certain individuals for  
13 unemployment compensation purposes; providing an effective  
14 date.

15  
16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

17  
18 Section 1. The Legislature finds that businesses and  
19 individuals in this state are experiencing significant economic  
20 hardship and that revenues critical to the delivery of vital  
21 public services are jeopardized. Therefore, it is the intent of  
22 the Legislature to establish policies designed to stimulate  
23 economic activity in this state and promote the economic  
24 security of the residents of this state. The need to retain and  
25 create jobs in this state in the current economic environment is  
26 great. A significant investment of state funds in reemployment  
27 and retraining programs is essential to economic recovery in  
28 this state. The state should invest in economic recovery  
29 training programs that deliver a high expectation of continued  
30 employment after a reasonably short period of training is



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31 completed. Economic recovery training funds should be expended  
32 on programs that enhance the skills of residents of this state  
33 who are employed by businesses based in this state.

34 Section 2. Economic recovery training shall be awarded to  
35 providers of training services on a competitive bid basis and  
36 shall receive continued support on a performance based schedule  
37 not to exceed 12 months. Training agreements may not be  
38 continued with employers who demonstrate a pattern of failing to  
39 provide participants with employment. The Agency for Workforce  
40 Innovation and its controlling board, Workforce Florida, Inc.,  
41 shall have power and authority over the use of economic recovery  
42 training funds pursuant to this act and such funds shall be  
43 expended in accordance with the provisions of chapter 445,  
44 Florida Statutes.

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

47 443.036 Definitions.--As used in this chapter, unless the  
48 context clearly requires otherwise:

49 (7) BASE PERIOD.--

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

53 (b) With respect to a benefit year commencing after  
54 October 1, 2003, if an individual is not monetarily eligible in  
55 his or her base period to qualify for benefits, the Agency for  
56 Workforce Innovation must designate his or her base period to be  
57 the alternative base period. As used in this paragraph, the term  
58 "alternative base period" means the last four completed calendar  
59 quarters immediately preceding the individual's benefit year.

60 Wages used in a base period to establish a monetarily eligible



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61 benefit year may not be applied to establish monetary  
62 eligibility in any succeeding benefit year. If information  
63 regarding wages for the calendar quarter or quarters immediately  
64 preceding the benefit year has not been input into the agency's  
65 database, the agency shall request such information from the  
66 employer. An employer must respond to the wage request within 10  
67 days after receiving a request from the agency. If the employer  
68 fails to provide the requested wage information within the  
69 required time, the employer is subject to the penalty for  
70 delinquent reports provided in s. 443.141(1)(b).

71 (c) For monetary determinations based upon the alternative  
72 base period under paragraph (b), if the agency is unable to  
73 access the wage information through its database, the agency may  
74 base the determination of eligibility for benefits on an  
75 affidavit submitted by the individual with respect to wages for  
76 those calendar quarters. The individual must furnish payroll  
77 information, if available, in support of the affidavit. A  
78 determination of benefits based upon an alternative base period  
79 shall be adjusted when the quarterly report of wage information  
80 from the employer is received, if that information causes a  
81 change in the determination.

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

85 (2) Notwithstanding section 443.111(1), Florida Statutes,  
86 the initial payment of unemployment compensation benefits shall  
87 be for 1 week of compensation and subsequent compensation shall  
88 occur biweekly.



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89           (3) Notwithstanding section 443.111(3), Florida Statutes,  
90 the weekly benefit amount for any individual shall be increased  
91 by the greater of \$25 or 15 percent.

92           (4) This section expires June 30, 2005.

93           Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.