

Amendment No. 1

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED \_\_\_\_\_ (Y/N)  
ADOPTED AS AMENDED \_\_\_\_\_ (Y/N)  
ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION \_\_\_\_\_ (Y/N)  
FAILED TO ADOPT \_\_\_\_\_ (Y/N)  
WITHDRAWN \_\_\_\_\_ (Y/N)  
OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

1 Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Commerce Committee  
2 Representative Abbott offered the following:

3  
4 **Amendment (with title amendment)**

5 Remove lines 31-119 and insert:

6 interview without notifying the prospective employer of the need  
7 to cancel or reschedule the interview, to accept suitable work  
8 when offered to him or her, to ~~or~~ return to the individual's  
9 customary self-employment when directed by the department, or to  
10 return to employment when recalled to work by the individual's  
11 employer after a temporary layoff, the disqualification  
12 continues for the full period of unemployment next ensuing after  
13 he or she failed without good cause to apply for available  
14 suitable work, accept suitable work, or return to his or her  
15 customary employment or self-employment, and until the  
16 individual has earned income of at least 17 times his or her  
17 weekly benefit amount. The department shall by rule adopt

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18 | criteria to implement this subsection, including for determining  
19 | the "suitability of work," as used in this section. In  
20 | developing these rules, the department shall consider the  
21 | duration of a claimant's unemployment in determining the  
22 | suitability of work and the suitability of proposed rates of  
23 | compensation for available work. Further, after an individual  
24 | has received 25 weeks of benefits in a single year, suitable  
25 | work is a job that pays the minimum wage and is 120 percent or  
26 | more of the weekly benefit amount the individual is drawing.

27 | (a) In determining whether or not any work is suitable for  
28 | an individual, the department shall consider the degree of risk  
29 | to the individual's health, safety, and morals; the individual's  
30 | physical fitness, prior training, experience, prior earnings,  
31 | length of unemployment, and prospects for securing local work in  
32 | his or her customary occupation; and the distance of the  
33 | available work from his or her residence.

34 | (b) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter,  
35 | work is not deemed suitable and benefits may not be denied to  
36 | any otherwise eligible individual for refusing to accept new  
37 | work under any of the following conditions:

38 | 1. The position offered is vacant due directly to a  
39 | strike, lockout, or other labor dispute.

40 | 2. The wages, hours, or other conditions of the work  
41 | offered are substantially less favorable to the individual than  
42 | those prevailing for similar work in the locality.

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43           3. As a condition of being employed, the individual is  
44 required to join a company union or to resign from or refrain  
45 from joining any bona fide labor organization.

46           (c) If the department finds that an individual was  
47 rejected for offered employment as the direct result of a  
48 positive, confirmed drug test required as a condition of  
49 employment, the individual is disqualified for refusing to  
50 accept an offer of suitable work.

51           **Section 3. Section 443.1112, Florida Statutes, is created**  
52 **to read:**

53           443.1112 Verification of reemployment assistance benefit  
54 eligibility; detection of fraud.—

55           (1) The Department of Commerce must verify the identity of  
56 each claimant who applies for reemployment assistance benefits  
57 before paying any benefits to that individual.

58           (2) For the initial claim for benefits made by a claimant  
59 and as necessary to verify a claimant's eligibility for  
60 benefits, the department must cross-check the information  
61 contained in the claim with information in the database of the  
62 Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements Program  
63 established by the United States Bureau of Citizenship and  
64 Immigration Services.

65           (3) For every 2 weeks that a claimant makes a claim for  
66 benefits, including the initial claim for benefits, to verify a  
67 claimant's eligibility for benefits, the department must cross-

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68 | check the information contained in the claim to make sure that  
69 | the claimant is:

70 |     (a) Living.

71 |     (b) Not incarcerated.

72 |     (c) Not already employed.

73 |     (4) The department shall do all of the following:

74 |         (a) Investigate any claim in this state associated with a  
75 | mailing address, a bank account, an e-mail address, a telephone  
76 | number, or an Internet protocol address that is also associated  
77 | with another existing claim for reemployment assistance benefits  
78 | in this state or another state and verify that the claim in this  
79 | state is legitimate and not fraudulent before paying any  
80 | benefits for the claim.

81 |         (b) Scrutinize any claim in this state filed from a  
82 | foreign Internet protocol address before paying any benefits for  
83 | the claim.

84 |         (c) Work with the United States Department of Labor, the  
85 | United States Department of Justice, other state workforce  
86 | agencies, the Department of Law Enforcement, the state  
87 | attorneys, or the Office of the Statewide Prosecutor to share  
88 | information related to fraudulent claims or attempted fraudulent  
89 | claims to the extent feasible for further investigation and  
90 | proceedings brought under this chapter.

91 |         (d) Maintain a web page through which an individual or an  
92 | employer may report known or suspected violations of this  
93 | chapter, including identity theft or fraud. Each year, the

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94 department shall notify employers in this state of this web page  
95 for reporting violations.

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**T I T L E   A M E N D M E N T**

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Remove lines 12-14 and insert:

100

page for a specified purpose and to notify employers

101

each year of the web page; providing annual reporting

102

requirements;