

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to verification of reemployment  
 3           assistance benefit eligibility; providing a short  
 4           title; amending s. 443.101, F.S.; revising  
 5           circumstances under which the Department of Commerce  
 6           disqualifies claimants from reemployment assistance  
 7           benefits; creating s. 443.1112, F.S.; requiring the  
 8           department to verify claimants' identities before  
 9           paying benefits; requiring the department to cross-  
 10          check certain information; providing duties of the  
 11          department; requiring the department to maintain a web  
 12          page and an e-mail address for a specified purpose and  
 13          to notify employers each year of the web page and e-  
 14          mail address; providing annual reporting requirements;  
 15          amending s. 445.011, F.S.; requiring the department's  
 16          job-matching information system to contain certain  
 17          elements; providing an effective date.

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

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 21           **Section 1.** This act may be cited as the "Promoting Work,  
 22 Deterring Fraud Act of 2025."

23           **Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 443.101, Florida**  
 24 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

25           443.101 Disqualification for benefits.—An individual shall

26 | be disqualified for benefits:

27 |       (2) If the Department of Commerce finds that the  
28 | individual has failed without good cause to apply for available  
29 | suitable work, including contacting the required number of  
30 | prospective employers per week for any week of unemployment  
31 | claimed in the benefit year in accordance with s. 443.091, or  
32 | failed to appear on three or more occasions for a scheduled job  
33 | interview, to accept suitable work when offered to him or her,  
34 | to ~~or~~ return to the individual's customary self-employment when  
35 | directed by the department, or to return to employment when  
36 | recalled to work by the individual's employer after a temporary  
37 | layoff, the disqualification continues for the full period of  
38 | unemployment next ensuing after he or she failed without good  
39 | cause to apply for available suitable work, accept suitable  
40 | work, or return to his or her customary employment or self-  
41 | employment, and until the individual has earned income of at  
42 | least 17 times his or her weekly benefit amount. The department  
43 | shall by rule adopt criteria to implement this subsection,  
44 | including for determining the "suitability of work," as used in  
45 | this section. In developing these rules, the department shall  
46 | consider the duration of a claimant's unemployment in  
47 | determining the suitability of work and the suitability of  
48 | proposed rates of compensation for available work. Further,  
49 | after an individual has received 25 weeks of benefits in a  
50 | single year, suitable work is a job that pays the minimum wage

51 and is 120 percent or more of the weekly benefit amount the  
52 individual is drawing.

53 (a) In determining whether or not any work is suitable for  
54 an individual, the department shall consider the degree of risk  
55 to the individual's health, safety, and morals; the individual's  
56 physical fitness, prior training, experience, prior earnings,  
57 length of unemployment, and prospects for securing local work in  
58 his or her customary occupation; and the distance of the  
59 available work from his or her residence.

60 (b) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter,  
61 work is not deemed suitable and benefits may not be denied to  
62 any otherwise eligible individual for refusing to accept new  
63 work under any of the following conditions:

64 1. The position offered is vacant due directly to a  
65 strike, lockout, or other labor dispute.

66 2. The wages, hours, or other conditions of the work  
67 offered are substantially less favorable to the individual than  
68 those prevailing for similar work in the locality.

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

72 (c) If the department finds that an individual was  
73 rejected for offered employment as the direct result of a  
74 positive, confirmed drug test required as a condition of  
75 employment, the individual is disqualified for refusing to

76 | accept an offer of suitable work.

77 | **Section 3. Section 443.1112, Florida Statutes, is created**  
 78 | **to read:**

79 | 443.1112 Verification of reemployment assistance benefit  
 80 | eligibility; detection of fraud.-

81 | (1) The Department of Commerce must verify the identity of  
 82 | each claimant who applies for reemployment assistance benefits  
 83 | before paying any benefits to that individual.

84 | (2) For the initial claim for benefits made by a claimant  
 85 | and as necessary to verify a claimant's eligibility for  
 86 | benefits, the department must cross-check the information  
 87 | contained in the claim with information in the database of the  
 88 | Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements Program  
 89 | established by the United States Bureau of Citizenship and  
 90 | Immigration Services.

91 | (3) For every 2 weeks that a claimant makes a claim for  
 92 | benefits, including the initial claim for benefits, to verify a  
 93 | claimant's eligibility for benefits, the department must cross-  
 94 | check the information contained in the claim to make sure that  
 95 | the claimant is:

96 | (a) Living.

97 | (b) Not incarcerated.

98 | (c) Not already employed.

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

100 | (a) Investigate any claim in this state associated with a

101 mailing address, a bank account, an e-mail address, a telephone  
102 number, or an Internet protocol address that is also associated  
103 with another existing claim for reemployment assistance benefits  
104 in this state or another state and verify that the claim in this  
105 state is legitimate and not fraudulent before paying any  
106 benefits for the claim.

107 (b) Scrutinize any claim in this state filed from a  
108 foreign Internet protocol address before paying any benefits for  
109 the claim.

110 (c) Work with the United States Department of Labor, the  
111 United States Department of Justice, other state workforce  
112 agencies, the Department of Law Enforcement, the state  
113 attorneys, or the Office of the Statewide Prosecutor to share  
114 information related to fraudulent claims or attempted fraudulent  
115 claims to the extent feasible for further investigation and  
116 proceedings brought under this chapter.

117 (d) Maintain a web page and an e-mail address through  
118 which an individual or an employer may report known or suspected  
119 violations of this chapter, including identity theft or fraud.  
120 Each year, the department shall notify employers in this state  
121 of this web page and e-mail address for reporting violations.

122 (e) Each year, make available on its website a report  
123 identifying the number of fraudulent reemployment assistance  
124 claims identified for the prior year, the number of claims not  
125 paid due to successful detection of fraudulent intentions, the

126 number of claims and the amount of reemployment assistance  
127 benefits paid against claims subsequently identified as  
128 fraudulent, the amount of fraudulent overpayments recovered, and  
129 the number of fraudulent claims referred for investigation and  
130 possible prosecution. The report must also list the sources of  
131 information that were used to cross-check claims during the  
132 reporting period.

133 **Section 4. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section**  
134 **445.011, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

135 445.011 Consumer-first workforce system.—

136 (1) The department, in consultation with the state board,  
137 the Department of Education, and the Department of Children and  
138 Families, shall implement, subject to legislative appropriation,  
139 an automated consumer-first workforce system that improves  
140 coordination among required one-stop partners and is necessary  
141 for the efficient and effective operation and management of the  
142 workforce development system. This system must include, but is  
143 not limited to, the following:

144 (b)1. An automated job-matching information system that is  
145 accessible to employers, job seekers, and other users via the  
146 Internet, that is in alignment with the implementation of 20  
147 C.F.R. s. 652.3, and that includes, at a minimum, all of the  
148 following:

149 a.1. Skill match information, including skill gap  
150 analysis; résumé creation; job order creation; skill tests; job

151 search by area, employer type, and employer name; and training  
152 provider linkage.

153 ~~b.2.~~ Job market information based on surveys, including  
154 local, state, regional, national, and international occupational  
155 and job availability information.

156 ~~c.3.~~ Service provider information, including education and  
157 training providers, child care facilities and related  
158 information, health and social service agencies, and other  
159 providers of services that would be useful to job seekers.

160 2. The job-matching information system must use artificial  
161 intelligence generation for the purpose of matching participants  
162 to jobs and training opportunities and must include a knowledge,  
163 skills, and interests assessment for the purpose of guiding  
164 participants to jobs and training opportunities.

165 **Section 5.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.