

Amendment No.

CHAMBER ACTION

SenateHouse

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Representative Nixon offered the following:

Amendment (with title amendment)

Remove lines 82-133 and insert:

eligibility; detection of fraud; job search support services.-

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

(2) For the initial claim for benefits made by a claimant and as necessary to verify a claimant's eligibility for benefits, the department must cross-check the information contained in the claim with information in the database of the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements Program

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14 established by the United States Bureau of Citizenship and
15 Immigration Services.

16 (3) For every 2 weeks that a claimant makes a claim for
17 benefits, including the initial claim for benefits, to verify a
18 claimant's eligibility for benefits, the department must cross-
19 check the information contained in the claim to ensure that the
20 claimant is:

21 (a) Living.

22 (b) Not incarcerated.

23 (c) Not already employed.

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

25 (a) Investigate any claim associated with a mailing
26 address, a bank account, an e-mail address, a telephone number,
27 or an Internet protocol address that is also associated with
28 another existing claim for reemployment assistance benefits in
29 this state or another state and verify that the claim in this
30 state is legitimate and not fraudulent before paying any
31 benefits for the claim.

32 (b) Examine each claim filed from a foreign Internet
33 protocol address before paying any benefits for the claim.

34 (c) Work with the United States Department of Labor, the
35 United States Department of Justice, other state workforce
36 agencies, the Department of Law Enforcement, the state
37 attorneys, or the Office of the Statewide Prosecutor to share
38 information related to fraudulent claims or attempted fraudulent

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39 claims to the extent feasible for further investigation and
40 proceedings brought under this chapter.

41 (d) Maintain a web page through which an individual or an
42 employer may report known or suspected violations of this
43 chapter, including identity theft or fraud. Each year, the
44 department shall notify employers in this state of the web page
45 for reporting violations.

46 (e) Each year, make available on its website a report
47 identifying for the prior year the number of fraudulent
48 reemployment assistance claims identified, the number of claims
49 not paid due to successful detection of fraudulent intentions,
50 the number of claims and the amount of reemployment assistance
51 benefits paid against claims subsequently identified as
52 fraudulent, the amount of fraudulent overpayments recovered, and
53 the number of fraudulent claims referred for investigation and
54 possible prosecution. The report must also list the sources of
55 information that were used to cross-check claims during the
56 reporting period.

57 (5) (a) The Department of Commerce shall ensure that
58 individuals receiving reemployment assistance benefits are
59 promptly connected with job search support services available
60 through the CareerSource Florida, Inc., or its regional
61 workforce boards. These services must include, at a minimum:

62 1. Access to Employ Florida or any successor job-matching
63 system.

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64 2. Information on how to obtain resume assistance,
65 interview preparation, and skills assessments.

66 3. Guidance on meeting reemployment eligibility
67 requirements.

68 4. Weekly notifications of job fairs, training
69 opportunities, and hiring events available in the claimant's
70 region.

71 5. Contact information for and referral to a local career
72 center for one-on-one support.

73 (b) The services described in paragraph (a) shall be made
74 available to claimants within the first week of their benefit
75 period. The department may not disqualify a claimant for failing
76 to meet the job search requirements under this chapter unless
77 the department has documented that the claimant has been
78 informed of and offered access to the services described in
79 paragraph (a).

80 (c) The department shall coordinate with CareerSource
81 Florida, Inc., and its regional workforce boards to implement
82 this subsection and may adopt rules to ensure consistency across
83 regions.

84 (d) This subsection may not be construed to reduce
85 existing reemployment assistance benefits or impose additional
86 eligibility requirements.

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T I T L E A M E N D M E N T

Remove lines 1-16 and insert:

An act relating to reemployment assistance benefits; providing a short title; amending s. 443.101, F.S.; revising circumstances under which the Department of Commerce disqualifies claimants from reemployment assistance benefits; creating s. 443.1112, F.S.; requiring the department to verify claimants' identities before paying benefits; requiring the department to cross-check certain information to verify claimants' eligibility under certain circumstances; providing duties of the department; requiring the department to maintain a web page for a specified purpose and to notify employers each year of the web page; providing annual reporting requirements; requiring the department to ensure that individuals receiving reemployment assistance benefits are connected with job search support services; providing requirements for such services; prohibiting the department from disqualifying claimants for failure to meet job search requirements under certain circumstances; requiring the department to coordinate with certain entities for specified purposes; providing rulemaking authority; providing construction; providing an effective

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