

26 | Deterring Fraud Act of 2024."

27 | Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 443.101, Florida
 28 | Statutes, is amended to read:

29 | 443.101 Disqualification for benefits.—An individual shall
 30 | be disqualified for benefits:

31 | (2) If the Department of Commerce ~~Economic Opportunity~~
 32 | finds that the individual has failed without good cause to apply
 33 | for available suitable work, failed to contact at least five
 34 | prospective employers per week in accordance with s. 443.091
 35 | unless otherwise exempt, failed to appear on three or more
 36 | occasions for a scheduled job interview, failed to accept within
 37 | 2 business days suitable work ~~when~~ offered to him or her, or
 38 | failed to return to the individual's customary self-employment
 39 | when directed by the department or when recalled to work by his
 40 | or her former employer, the disqualification continues for the
 41 | full period of unemployment next ensuing after he or she failed
 42 | without good cause to apply for available suitable work, accept
 43 | suitable work, or return to his or her customary self-
 44 | employment, and until the individual has earned income of at
 45 | least 17 times his or her weekly benefit amount. The department
 46 | shall by rule adopt criteria for determining the "suitability of
 47 | work," as used in this section. In developing these rules, the
 48 | department shall consider the duration of a claimant's
 49 | unemployment in determining the suitability of work and the
 50 | suitability of proposed rates of compensation for available

51 work. Further, after an individual has received 25 weeks of
52 benefits in a single year, suitable work is a job that pays the
53 minimum wage and is 120 percent or more of the weekly benefit
54 amount the individual is drawing.

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

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

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

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

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

74 (c) If the department finds that an individual was
75 rejected for offered employment as the direct result of a

76 | positive, confirmed drug test required as a condition of
 77 | employment, the individual is disqualified for refusing to
 78 | accept an offer of suitable work.

79 | (d) The department shall maintain a web page and an e-mail
 80 | address through which employers may report known or suspected
 81 | violations of this section. Each year the department shall
 82 | notify employers in the state of this web page and e-mail
 83 | address for reporting violations.

84 | Section 3. Section 443.1112, Florida Statutes, is created
 85 | to read:

86 | 443.1112 Verification of reemployment assistance benefit
 87 | eligibility.-

88 | (1) The Department of Commerce shall verify the identity
 89 | of each claimant who applies for reemployment assistance
 90 | benefits before paying any benefits to that individual.

91 | (2) In determining the eligibility of a claim for
 92 | reemployment assistance benefits, the department shall weekly
 93 | cross-check the information contained in the claim with all of
 94 | the following sources or similar sources of information:

95 | (a) The National Association of State Workforce Agencies
 96 | Integrity Data Hub.

97 | (b) The United States Department of Health and Human
 98 | Services National Directory of New Hires.

99 | (c) The State Directory of New Hires created in s.
 100 | 409.2576.

- 101 (d) The Department of Corrections inmate database.
- 102 (e) The Social Security Administration Prisoner Update
- 103 Processing System.
- 104 (f) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- 105 National Vital Statistics System death records database.
- 106 (g) The Department of Health Bureau of Vital Statistics
- 107 death records database.
- 108 (h) The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services
- 109 SAVE database.
- 110 (3) Reemployment assistance benefits administered by the
- 111 department may not be paid for any claim that has not been
- 112 cross-checked against all the sources specified in subsection
- 113 (2) or similar sources of information.
- 114 (4) The department shall do all of the following:
- 115 (a) Investigate any claim indicating suspicious activity
- 116 associated with a mailing address, a bank account, an e-mail
- 117 address, a telephone number, or an Internet protocol address
- 118 that is associated with another existing claim for reemployment
- 119 assistance benefits and verify that the claim is legitimate and
- 120 not fraudulent before paying any benefits for the claim.
- 121 (b) Scrutinize any claim filed from a foreign Internet
- 122 protocol address before paying any benefits for the claim.
- 123 (c) Work with the United States Department of Labor, other
- 124 workforce agencies outside the state, the Office of the Attorney
- 125 General, the Department of Law Enforcement, or other relevant

126 law enforcement entities to share information related to
127 fraudulent claims or attempted fraudulent claims to the extent
128 feasible for further investigation and prosecution.

129 (d) Each year, submit to the Legislature and make
130 available on its website a report identifying the number of
131 fraudulent reemployment assistance claims identified for the
132 prior year, the number of claims not paid due to successful
133 detection of fraudulent intentions, the number of claims and the
134 amount of reemployment assistance benefits paid against claims
135 subsequently identified as fraudulent, the amount of fraudulent
136 overpayments recovered, and the number of fraudulent claims
137 referred for investigation and possible prosecution. The report
138 must also list the sources of information that were used to
139 cross-check claims during the reporting period.

140 Section 4. Subsection (8) is added to section 445.003,
141 Florida Statutes, to read:

142 445.003 Implementation of the federal Workforce Innovation
143 and Opportunity Act.—

144 (8) ONLINE WORKFORCE SEARCH AND MATCH TOOL.—The
145 department, in alignment with the implementation of 20 C.F.R. s.
146 652.3 to administer a public labor exchange services system,
147 shall procure a modernized online workforce search and match
148 tool that includes artificial intelligence generation for the
149 purpose of matching participants to jobs and training
150 opportunities. The tool must be interoperable through an

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151 application programming interface with the consumer-first
152 workforce system implemented in s. 445.011, and the tool must
153 include a knowledge, skills, and interests assessment for the
154 purpose of guiding participants to jobs and training
155 opportunities.

156 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.