

House Study Bill 655 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____

BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
LABOR AND WORKFORCE BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON DEYOE)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to claims for unemployment insurance benefits
2 and including effective date provisions.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 96.4, Code 2024, is amended by adding the
2 following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 8. *a.* For each week, the individual
4 has performed a minimum of four work search activities and
5 documented and reported each activity to the department. One
6 of the activities shall be verifiable in real time by the
7 department.

8 *b.* At least three of the four work search activities for
9 the purposes of this subsection shall consist of one of the
10 following:

11 (1) Applying for a potential job opening by submitting a
12 resume or application through any of the following means:

- 13 (a) Online.
- 14 (b) In person.
- 15 (c) Electronic mail.
- 16 (d) Facsimile.
- 17 (e) Mail.

18 (2) Completing a civil service exam.

19 *c.* Additional work search activities for the purposes of
20 this subsection consist of any of the following:

21 (1) If the individual is a veteran as defined in section
22 35.1, submitting a resume to the state's home base Iowa
23 program.

24 (2) Registering with a placement facility of a school or
25 college.

26 (3) Interviewing for a job either virtually, in person, or
27 at a job fair.

28 (4) Attending an employment workshop organized or approved
29 by the department, which may include completing an online
30 or in-person job search workshop, job club, or job search
31 networking meeting.

32 (5) Attending a job fair sponsored or approved by the
33 department.

34 (6) Attending a scheduled career networking meeting with
35 the department.

1 (7) With the assistance and guidance of the department,
2 completing a reemployment plan, which may include completing
3 career direction research or work such as a job search plan or
4 a targeted employer list.

5 (8) Participating in job search counseling with a
6 department career planner.

7 (9) Attending an appointment with a core program partner
8 authorized by the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
9 Act, Pub. L. No. 113-128.

10 (10) Participating in online or in-person mock interviews
11 organized or approved by the department.

12 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 96.33 Verification of claimant
13 identity.

14 1. When a claimant makes a claim for benefits, the
15 department shall verify the identity of the claimant before
16 payment of benefits to the claimant.

17 2. The department shall use multi-factor authentication
18 to verify the identity of any claimant submitting a claim for
19 benefits through an internet site or online portal used by the
20 department for the purpose of accepting claims for benefits.

21 3. The department shall verify the identity of a claimant,
22 as required by subsections 1 and 2, at least once per benefit
23 year.

24 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect January 1,
25 2025.

26 EXPLANATION

27 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
28 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

29 This bill relates to claims for unemployment insurance
30 benefits.

31 The bill requires an individual to perform a minimum of
32 four work search activities, and document and report each
33 activity to the department of workforce development, each week
34 in order to be eligible for unemployment benefits for the week.
35 The bill specifies work search activities that satisfy these

1 requirements.

2 The bill requires the department to verify the identity
3 of a claimant before payment of unemployment benefits to
4 the claimant. The bill also requires the department to use
5 multi-factor authentication to verify the identity of any
6 claimant submitting a claim for benefits through an internet
7 site or online portal. These verifications are required at
8 least once per benefit year.

9 The bill takes effect January 1, 2025.