

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2024 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 5427

By Delegate Worrell

[Introduced February 02, 2024; Referred to the
Committee on Workforce Development then
Government Organization]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
 2 designated §21A-6-1d, all relating to unemployment eligibility; establishing the short title of
 3 "Promoting a Return to Work Act of 2024"; establishing a purpose; providing weekly search
 4 requirements; establishing acceptable work search activities; and setting an effective date.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 6. EMPLOYEE ELIGIBILITY; BENEFITS.

§21A-6-1d. Promoting a Return Work Act of 2024.

1 (a) Short title. - This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Promoting a Return to
 2 Work Act of 2024."

3 (b) Purpose. - This Act strengthens the work search requirements of the unemployment
 4 insurance (UI) program and defines what constitutes acceptable work search activities on the part
 5 of claimants.

6 (c) Weekly work search requirements. - Claimants for weekly unemployment insurance
 7 benefits must complete at least four work search activities during the week for which they are
 8 applying for unemployment benefits. Failure to complete the required number of work search
 9 activities shall disqualify a claimant from collecting benefits for that week.

10 (d) Acceptable work search activities. - Only the following actions constitute acceptable
 11 work search activities for the purpose of complying with subsection (c) of this section, and each
 12 action shall be considered a single work search for that week:

- 13 (1) Submitting a resume to an employer;
- 14 (2) Completing and submitting a job application to an employer;
- 15 (3) Attending and completing an interview with an employer;
- 16 (4) Attending a job fair; or
- 17 (5) Participating in job skill training at a workforce center.

18 (e) Effective date. - The requirements of this Act shall be effective no later than 180 days
 19 after enrollment.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to establish the short title of "Promoting a Return to Work Act of 2024"; establish a purpose; provide weekly search requirements; establish acceptable work search activities; and set an effective date.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.