

## CHAPTER 941

## H.B. No. 604

## AN ACT

relating to certain requirements for eligibility for unemployment compensation benefits.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Section 4, Texas Unemployment Compensation Act (Article 5221b-2, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 4. BENEFIT ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS. Except as provided by Section 31 of this Act, an unemployed individual shall be eligible to receive benefits with respect to any benefit period only if the Commission finds that:

(a) He has registered for work at, and thereafter has continued to report at, an employment office in accordance with such regulations as the Commission may prescribe;

(b) He has made a claim for benefits in accordance with the provisions of Subsection 6(a) of this Act;

(c) He is able to work;

(d) He is available for work;

(e) He has within his base period received benefit wage credits for employment by employers *in an amount [of] not less than thirty-seven (37) times his weekly benefit amount [Five Hundred Dollars (\$500)]* and has *[total benefit] wage credits in at least two (2) calendar quarters in his base period [of not less than one and one-half (1-1/2) times his high-quarter benefit wage credits in his base period]*, provided that any claimant who has had a prior benefit year must have earned wages *in an amount equal to six (6) times his weekly benefit amount [of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250)]* or more subsequent to the beginning date of the prior benefit year.

(f) Prior to the first payment of benefits following an initial claim he has been totally or partially unemployed for a waiting period of seven (7) consecutive days. No week shall be counted as a waiting period week for the purposes of this Subsection:

(1) Unless he has registered for work at an employment office in accordance with Subsection (a) of this Section;

(2) Unless it is a week following the filing of an initial claim;

(3) Unless he reports at an office of the Commission and certifies that he has met the waiting period requirements herein prescribed for the preceding seven (7) days;

(4) If benefits have been paid or are payable with respect thereto;

(5) If the individual does not meet the eligibility conditions of Subsections (c) and (d) of this Section 4;

(6) If the individual has been disqualified for benefits for such seven (7) day period under the provisions of Subsections (a), (b), (c), or (d) of Section 5 of this Act;

(7) Provided, notwithstanding any other provision of this Subsection (f), when an individual has been paid benefits in his current benefit year equal to three times his weekly benefit amount, he shall be eligible to receive benefits on his waiting period claim in accordance with the terms of the Act.

**SECTION 2.** This Act takes effect September 1, 1987, and applies only to a claim for benefits filed with the Texas Employment Commission on or after that date. A claim filed before that date is subject to the law in effect before the effective date of this Act, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

**SECTION 3.** The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended.

Passed by the House on May 7, 1987, by a non-record vote. Passed by the Senate on May 23, 1987, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Approved June 20, 1987.

Effective Sept. 1, 1987.