LAWS OF ALASKA

2020

Source
SCS HB 308(FIN)

Chapter No.
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AN ACT

Relating to unemployment benefits during a period of state or national emergency resulting from a novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak; and providing for an effective date.

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

THE ACT FOLLOWS ON PAGE 1

AN ACT

Relating to unemployment benefits during a period of state or national emergency resulting from a novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak; and providing for an effective date.

*** Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: BENEFIT QUALIFICATION AND WAITING WEEK DURING NOVEL CORONAVIRUS DISEASE OUTBREAK. (a) To the extent consistent with federal law, an insured worker who is otherwise qualified to receive a benefit under AS 23.20 (Alaska Employment Security Act) may not be disqualified for failure to comply with AS 23.20.378(a) because of conduct by the insured worker or the employer of the insured worker related to an outbreak of novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), including conduct involving

(1) providing care, including medical care, to one or more persons;

(2) preventing or limiting the spread of COVID-19; or

(3) preventing or limiting economic loss or harm.

(b) The protection of an insured worker under (a) of this section applies for a period of 120 days beginning on the effective date of this section or the date the insured worker applies for a benefit under AS 23.20, whichever is later.

(c) For the duration of a state or national emergency for an outbreak of novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the limitations under AS 23.20.375(b) do not apply to benefits payable to an insured worker under AS 23.20 (Alaska Employment Security Act) who is otherwise entitled to receive waiting-week credit or benefits under AS 23.20.375(a).

(d) The provision of a benefit as permitted by this section is not a violation of AS 23.20.500.

(e) The commissioner of labor and workforce development shall administer this section as required under AS 23.20.005(b) and 23.20.095.

(f) In this section, "insured worker" has the meaning given in AS 23.20.520.

*** Sec. 2.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: DEPENDENT ALLOWANCE DURING NOVEL CORONAVIRUS DISEASE OUTBREAK. Notwithstanding AS 23.20.350(f) and to the extent consistent with federal law, for the duration of a state or national emergency for an outbreak of novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the allowance for dependents of an insured worker under AS 23.20 (Alaska Employment Security Act) who establishes a benefit year under AS 23.20.350 is $75 per week for each dependent. The Department of Labor and Workforce Development may not limit the total allowances for dependents paid to the insured worker for each week of unemployment. In this section, "dependent" has the meaning given in AS 23.20.350(g).

*** Sec. 3.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

TRANSITION: REGULATIONS. The commissioner of labor and workforce development may adopt regulations necessary to implement this Act. The regulations are not subject to AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act).

*** Sec. 4.** This Act is repealed April 1, 2021.

*** Sec. 5.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

RETROACTIVITY. Sections 1 - 3 of this Act are retroactive to March 1, 2020.

*** Sec. 6.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).