

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2729 Session of 2020

INTRODUCED BY OTTEN, HOHENSTEIN, DALEY, YOUNGBLOOD, GALLOWAY,
KINSEY, DRISCOLL, STEPHENS, CIRESI, SCHWEYER, HILL-EVANS,
DeLUCA, ROZZI, SANCHEZ, DONATUCCI AND KENYATTA, JULY 30, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND INDUSTRY, JULY 30, 2020

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 5, 1936 (2nd Sp.Sess., 1937
2 P.L.2897, No.1), entitled "An act establishing a system of
3 unemployment compensation to be administered by the
4 Department of Labor and Industry and its existing and newly
5 created agencies with personnel (with certain exceptions)
6 selected on a civil service basis; requiring employers to
7 keep records and make reports, and certain employers to pay
8 contributions based on payrolls to provide moneys for the
9 payment of compensation to certain unemployed persons;
10 providing procedure and administrative details for the
11 determination, payment and collection of such contributions
12 and the payment of such compensation; providing for
13 cooperation with the Federal Government and its agencies;
14 creating certain special funds in the custody of the State
15 Treasurer; and prescribing penalties," in emergency
16 provisions related to COVID-19, providing for exemptions.

17 Section 1. The act of December 5, 1936 (2nd Sp.Sess., 1937
18 P.L.2897, No.1), known as the Unemployment Compensation Law, is
19 amended by adding a section to read:

20 Section 1602.1. Exemptions.

21 (a) Exemptions.--A claimant shall be exempt from the
22 requirements of section 402(a), shall continue to receive
23 unemployment compensation benefits provided under this act and
24 may refuse work if the claimant:

1 (1) needs to remain at home to care for a child while
2 schools are closed as a result of a disaster emergency;

3 (2) has no access to child care due to the closure of
4 child-care facilities as a result of a disaster emergency;

5 (3) has a child over six years of age and child care is
6 limited to children under six years of age as a result of a
7 disaster emergency;

8 (4) is employed in a service industry and is paid a wage
9 that fails to meet the cost of child care plus living
10 expenses, which includes the costs of housing, food, health
11 insurance and transportation to the claimant's place of
12 employment, as a result of a disaster emergency;

13 (5) is at increased risk of contracting COVID-19 because
14 of an underlying medical condition verified by a statement by
15 a physician specifying the underlying medical condition and
16 documenting increased susceptibility to contracting COVID-19;

17 (6) is over 65 years of age;

18 (7) lives or cares for vulnerable, at-risk individuals;

19 or

20 (8) is on Public Health Emergency Leave under the
21 Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Public Law 116-127,
22 29 U.S.C. §§ 2612(a)(1)(F) and 2620).

23 (b) Definition.--As used in this section, "disaster
24 emergency" means the proclamation of disaster emergency issued
25 by the Governor on March 6, 2020, published at 50 Pa.B. 1644
26 (March 21, 2020), and any renewal of the state of disaster
27 emergency.

28 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.