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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

HOUSE COMMITTEES:
AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES COMMITTEE
HOUSE INSURANCE
HOUSE PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

TO: All House Members
FROM: Rep. Marguerite Quinn *MQ*
Member, 143rd Legislative District
DATE: March 3, 2011
SUBJECT: **Co-Sponsor:** Unemployment Compensation Reform ~ Minimum Job Search Requirements
~ Prior HB 2695

Pennsylvania ~ and our nation ~ continue to face high unemployment rates and sluggish economic conditions. The Commonwealth's unemployment compensation related debt is at an all-time high, and we must ensure that our system going forward is as effective and efficient as possible to support our citizens who find themselves out of work through no fault of their own.

In the near future, I plan to re-introduce legislation to amend the Unemployment Compensation Law to establish minimum job search requirements for claimants. This legislation changes the law to require that claimants:

1. register for participation in job search services offered by CareerLink offices within one month after applying to receive benefits;
2. post a resume on the CareerLink's database; and
3. apply for positions on the CareerLink database that offer employment and wages similar to those the claimant had prior to separation from employment, and which are located within a 45-minute commuting distance.

It is important to note that Pennsylvania has no active job search requirements for claimants (except for claimants selected for Profile Re-Employment Program) while they are collecting the regular 26 weeks of state unemployment benefits. There are none.

All neighboring states and most states nationally, have some type of active job search requirement. Currently, when an individual opens a claim, they are "referred" to the local CareerLink office, but they are not *required* to actually go to the office and seek assistance or post their resume. Our current system has no active means of monitoring whether or not our claimants are actively searching for work.

It is important also to note that this legislation is fully supported by the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business & Industry and the NFIB. Quite frankly, I believe these proposed standards are very reasonable minimum job search expectations of claimants, and will likely prove helpful in their employment searches.

I welcome your support of this important and timely legislation. Thank you for your consideration. RSVPs for co-sponsorship are being accepted by Teresa Wagner at 717.772.1413 or via email @ twagner@pahousegop.com.

PRIOR CO-SPONSORS INCLUDE: BENNINGHOFF, CHRISTIANA, CLYMER, CREIGHTON, CUTLER, DENLINGER, EVERETT, FLECK, GINGRICH, GROVE, HARPER, HELM KAUFFMAN, KNOWLES, McILVAINE SMITH, MILLARD, MILLER, MOUL, MUSTIO, OBERLANDER, PASHINSKI, PEIFER, PERRY, PICKETT, REICHLEY, ROAE, ROCK, SAYLOR, STEVENSON, SWANGER, TALLMAN and VULAKOVICH.