

2016 -- H 7344

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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A N A C T

RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- EMPLOYMENT SECURITY --  
BENEFITS

Introduced By: Representatives Gallison, Marshall, Abney, Shekarchi, and Maldonado

Date Introduced: January 27, 2016

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 28-44-14 of the General Laws in Chapter 28-44 entitled  
2 "Employment Security - Benefits" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **28-44-14. Waiting period.** -- (a) Subject to the provisions of subsection (e) of this  
4 section, the waiting period of any individual shall be either:

5 (1) Seven (7) consecutive days, commencing with the Sunday of the week in which the  
6 claimant filed a claim for benefits, during which that individual is totally unemployed due to lack  
7 of work; or

8 (2) Seven (7) consecutive days, commencing with the Sunday of the week in which the  
9 claimant filed a claim for benefits, during which that individual is employed less than full time  
10 due to lack of work and during which he or she has earned remuneration for services performed  
11 in an amount less than his or her weekly benefit rate; provided, that no waiting period credit can  
12 be given in either case if a disqualification has been imposed with respect to the whole or any  
13 portion of that seven (7) day period under § 28-44-12 or §§ 28-44-16 -- 28-44-21.

14 (b) No waiting period shall be given to any individual unless he or she has filed a valid  
15 claim in accordance with regulations adopted as prescribed.

16 (c) Benefits shall be payable to an eligible individual only for those weeks of his or her  
17 unemployment within a benefit year which occur subsequent to one waiting period, which shall  
18 be served at any time during the benefit year.

1           (d) No period of total or partial unemployment shall be counted towards an individual's  
2 required waiting period if, with respect to any portion of that period of unemployment, benefits  
3 have been paid under the employment security ~~act. or temporary disability insurance acts of any~~  
4 ~~other state or of any similar acts of any foreign government, or if benefits have been paid under~~  
5 ~~the Temporary Disability Insurance Act of this state or under any similar acts of the United~~  
6 ~~States.~~ There shall be no waiting period for any individual transitioning from temporary disability  
7 insurance benefits from any other state or foreign government or if benefits have been paid under  
8 the temporary disability insurance act of this state or under any similar acts of the United States.

9           (e) In the event that an individual's unemployment is due to a natural disaster or state of  
10 emergency, there shall be no waiting period.

11           (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, no waiting period shall be in effect  
12 from the date of enactment of this article through June 30, 2009.

13           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- EMPLOYMENT SECURITY --  
BENEFITS

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1           This act would eliminate the waiting period for individuals transitioning from temporary  
2 disability payments from any other state or foreign government or payments paid from the state  
3 of Rhode Island or the government of the United States to unemployment benefits.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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