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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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A N A C T

RELATING TO LABOR - UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS DURING FEDERAL  
GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

Introduced By: Senators Lawson, Ruggerio, Euer, Goodwin, and McCaffrey

Date Introduced: January 24, 2019

Referred To: Senate Labor

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 28-44 of the General Laws entitled "Employment Security -  
2 Benefits" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3           **28-44-17.2. Unemployment benefits for federal employees during government**  
4 **shutdown.**

5           Notwithstanding any general laws to the contrary, federal government employees, who  
6 are covered by Rhode Island's employment security laws, shall be immediately eligible for  
7 weekly unemployment benefits, while the federal government has been shutdown even if they are  
8 actually working but not currently receiving wages. When they eventually receive their federal  
9 back pay, they shall immediately repay any unemployment benefits they had received as a result  
10 of the federal government shutdown.

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

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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RELATING TO LABOR - UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS DURING FEDERAL  
GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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1           This act would enable federal employees, who are working during a government  
2 shutdown but not receiving wages, to receive unemployment benefits while they are working but  
3 not getting paid. When they receive their federal back pay they are required to repay the state for  
4 any unemployment benefits they receive.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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