

State of Wisconsin



2023 Assembly Bill 147

Date of enactment:
Date of publication*:

2023 WISCONSIN ACT

AN ACT to renumber and amend 108.04 (2) (a) 4. and 108.04 (5) (e); to amend 16.54 (2) (a) 1., 108.04 (5) (b), 108.04 (15) (a) 1. and 108.14 (20); and to create 16.54 (14), 108.04 (2) (a) 4. c., 108.04 (5) (e) (intro.), 108.04 (5) (e) 2. and 108.04 (5) (h) of the statutes; relating to: various changes to the unemployment insurance law and requiring approval by the Joint Committee on Finance of certain federally authorized unemployment benefits.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 16.54 (2) (a) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:

16.54 (2) (a) 1. Except as provided in subd. 2. and sub. (14), whenever funds shall be made available to this state through an act of congress and the funds are accepted as provided in sub. (1), the governor shall designate the state board, commission, or department to administer any of such funds, and the board, commission, or department so designated by the governor is authorized and directed to administer such funds for the purpose designated by the act of congress making an appropriation of such funds, or by the department of the United States government making such funds available to this state. Whenever a block grant is made to this state, no moneys received as a part of the block grant may be transferred from use as a part of one such grant to use as a part of another such grant, regardless of whether a transfer between appropriations is required, unless the joint committee on finance approves the transfer.

SECTION 2. 16.54 (14) of the statutes is created to read:

16.54 (14) (a) In this subsection, “benefit augmentation” means for any state agency or official, including the governor, to encumber or expend moneys received from, or accept reimbursement from, the federal government or for any state agency or official, including the governor, to enter into any contract or agreement with the federal government or any federal agency, to do any of the following:

1. Increase the weekly unemployment insurance benefit rate payable to claimants to a rate that is higher than what is provided under s. 108.05, including by providing any stipend or other benefit separately from unemployment insurance benefits, if eligibility for that stipend or benefit is determined, in whole or in part, based on an individual’s receipt of, or eligibility for, unemployment insurance benefits.

2. Increase the total amount of unemployment insurance benefits to which a claimant is entitled to an amount that is greater than what is provided under s. 108.06 (2), including by providing an increased overall benefit entitlement or additional weeks of benefits.

(b) 1. Whenever any benefit augmentation is provided for through an act of congress or by executive action of the president of the United States, the governor

* Section 991.11, WISCONSIN STATUTES: Effective date of acts. “Every act and every portion of an act enacted by the legislature over the governor’s partial veto which does not expressly prescribe the time when it takes effect shall take effect on the day after its date of publication.”

or other state official or state agency shall notify the cochairpersons of the joint committee on finance, in writing, of the proposed benefit augmentation. The notice shall contain a detailed description of the proposed benefit augmentation, an affirmative statement that the proposed benefit augmentation complies with subd. 2., and, if the proposed benefit augmentation requires any contract or agreement with the federal government or any federal agency, a copy of the proposed contract or agreement if available. If the cochairpersons of the committee do not notify the governor, official, or agency that the committee has scheduled a meeting for the purpose of reviewing the proposed benefit augmentation within 14 working days after the date of the governor's, official's, or agency's notification, the benefit augmentation may, subject to subd. 2., be effectuated as proposed by the governor, official, or agency. If, within 14 working days after the date of the governor's, official's, or agency's notification, the cochairpersons of the committee notify the governor, official, or agency that the committee has scheduled a meeting for the purpose of reviewing the proposed benefit augmentation, the benefit augmentation may not be effectuated without the approval of the committee. The committee may not approve a proposed benefit augmentation unless it complies with subd. 2.

2. No benefit augmentation may be effectuated unless it is subject to termination or cancellation by the joint committee on finance.

(c) This subsection does not apply with respect to federal extended benefits under s. 108.141.

SECTION 3. 108.04 (2) (a) 4. of the statutes is renumbered 108.04 (2) (a) 4. (intro.) and amended to read:

108.04 (2) (a) 4. (intro.) If the claimant is claiming benefits for a week other than an initial week, the claimant ~~provides~~ does all of the following:

a. Provides information or job application materials that are requested by the department ~~and participates.~~

b. Participates in a public employment office workshop or training program or in similar reemployment services that are required by the department under sub. (15) (a) 2.

SECTION 4. 108.04 (2) (a) 4. c. of the statutes is created to read:

108.04 (2) (a) 4. c. Registers on his or her local job center website or with his or her labor market exchange, if the claimant resides outside this state. The department shall verify that each such claimant has complied with this subd. 4. c.

SECTION 5. 108.04 (5) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

108.04 (5) (b) Theft or unauthorized possession of

an employer's property ~~or, theft of an employer's services with intent to deprive the employer of the property or services permanently, theft or unauthorized distribution of an employer's confidential or proprietary information, use of an employer's credit card or other financial instrument for an unauthorized or nonbusiness purpose without prior approval from the employer,~~ theft of currency of any value, felonious conduct connected with an employee's employment with his or her employer, or intentional or negligent conduct by an employee that causes the destruction of an employer's records or substantial damage to his or her an employer's property.

SECTION 6. 108.04 (5) (e) (intro.) of the statutes is created to read:

108.04 (5) (e) (intro.) Any of the following:

SECTION 7. 108.04 (5) (e) of the statutes is renumbered 108.04 (5) (e) 1. and amended to read:

108.04 (5) (e) 1. Absenteeism by an employee on more than 2 occasions within the 120-day period before the date of the employee's termination, ~~unless otherwise specified by his or her employer if the employee does not provide to his or her employer both notice and one or more valid reasons for the absenteeism. This subdivision does not apply if the employer has a reasonable policy that covers absenteeism described in subd. 2.~~ in an employment manual of which the employee has acknowledged receipt with his or her signature, ~~or excessive tardiness by an employee in violation of a policy of the employer that has been communicated to the employee, if the employee does not provide to his or her employer both notice and one or more valid reasons for the absenteeism or tardiness.~~

SECTION 8. 108.04 (5) (e) 2. of the statutes is created to read:

108.04 (5) (e) 2. A violation of an employer's reasonable policy that covers employee absenteeism, tardiness, or both, and that results in an employee's termination, if that termination is in accordance with that policy and the policy is specified by the employer in an employment manual of which the employee has acknowledged receipt with his or her signature.

SECTION 9. 108.04 (5) (h) of the statutes is created to read:

108.04 (5) (h) A violation by an employee of an employer's reasonable policy that covers the use of social media and is substantially related to the employee's employment, if the violation results in an employee's termination and if that termination is in accordance with that policy and the policy is specified by the employer in an employment manual of which the employee has acknowledged receipt with his or her signature.

SECTION 10. 108.04 (15) (a) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:

108.04 (15) (a) 1. Use the information or materials provided under sub. (2) (a) 4. a. to assess a claimant's efforts, skills, and ability to find or obtain work and to develop a list of potential opportunities for a claimant to obtain suitable work. A claimant who otherwise satisfies the requirement under sub. (2) (a) 3. is not required to apply for any specific positions on the list in order to satisfy that requirement.

SECTION 11. 108.14 (20) of the statutes is amended to read:

108.14 (20) The department shall conduct random audits on claimants for benefits under this chapter to assess compliance with the work search requirements under s. 108.04 (2) (a) 3. The department shall conduct the audits required under this subsection at a level sufficient for the department to assess at least 50 percent of all work search actions reported to have been performed by claimants.

SECTION 12. Nonstatutory provisions.

(1) The department of workforce development shall submit a notice to the legislative reference bureau for publication in the Wisconsin Administrative Register when the department determines that the department has any rules in place that are necessary to implement the renumbering and amendment of s. 108.04 (2) (a) 4. and the creation of s. 108.04 (2) (a) 4. c. by this act.

SECTION 13. Initial applicability.

(1) The renumbering and amendment of s. 108.04 (2) (a) 4. and the creation of s. 108.04 (2) (a) 4. c. first apply with respect to weeks of unemployment beginning on the effective date of this subsection.

(2) The renumbering and amendment of s. 108.04 (5) (e), the amendment of s. 108.04 (5) (b), and the creation of s. 108.04 (5) (e) (intro.) and 2. and (h) first apply with respect to determinations issued under s. 108.09 on the effective date of this subsection.

SECTION 14. Effective dates. This act takes effect on the Sunday after publication, except as follows:

(1) The renumbering and amendment of s. 108.04 (2) (a) 4. and the creation of s. 108.04 (2) (a) 4. c. and SECTION 13 (1) of this act take effect on the Sunday after the notice under SECTION 12 (1) of this act is published in the Wisconsin Administrative Register or on December 31, 2023, whichever occurs first.

(2) The renumbering and amendment of s. 108.04 (5) (e), the amendment of s. 108.04 (5) (b), and the creation of s. 108.04 (5) (e) (intro.) and 2. and (h) and SECTION 13 (2) of this act take effect on December 31, 2025, or on the first Sunday after the 180th day after publication, whichever occurs later.