



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

House Labor and Commerce Committee

Rep. Ivy Spohnholz
Chair

Sectional Analysis

House Bill 308

“An Act Relating to unemployment benefits during a period of state or national emergency resulting from a novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak; and providing for an effective date.”

Section 1. This section adds a new section to the statute regarding unemployment insurance and the impact of COVID-19 on workers and employers.

a) This new section says that to the extent consistent with federal law, an insured worker may not be disqualified for conduct related to COVID-19, including:

1. Providing care including medical care, to one or more persons;
2. Preventing or limiting the spread of COVID-19; or
3. Preventing or limiting economic loss or harm.

b) This section states that such protection of the insured worker applies for 90 days beginning the effective date of this act, or the date the worker applies for a benefit under AS 23.20, whichever is later.

c) This section states that the one week waiting period under AS 23.20.375 (b) is waived during the duration of the state or national emergency.

d) This section states that provision of such benefit is not a violation of AS 23.20.500, the Unemployment Security Act.

e) The Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development is directed to administer this section.

Section 2. This section modifies the uncodified law of the State of Alaska to increase dependent allowances for unemployment insurance. Notwithstanding federal law, for the duration of a state or national emergency related to COVID-19, the allowance for

dependents of insured workers under AS 23.20 is \$75 per week per dependent. It instructs the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to not limit the total allowances for dependents.

Section 3. This section repeals this Act April 1st, 2021.

Section 4. This section authorizes the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to implement this act, and declares that they are not subject to the Administrative Procedures Act, AS 44.62.

Section 5. This section declares the Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c)