

**HOUSE BILL NO. 448**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Introduced: 1/24/96

Referred: Labor and Commerce, Finance

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to eligibility for unemployment compensation benefits."**

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 \* **Section 1.** AS 23.20.378(a) is amended to read:

4 (a) An insured worker is entitled to receive waiting-week credit or benefits for  
5 a week of unemployment if for that week the insured worker is able to work and  
6 **actively seeking and** available for suitable work. An insured worker is not considered  
7 available for work unless registered for work in accordance with regulations adopted  
8 by the department. An insured worker may not be disqualified for failure to comply  
9 with this subsection if

10 (1) the insured worker is not **actively seeking or** available for work  
11 because

12 (A) the insured worker is ill or disabled;

13 (B) the insured worker is traveling to obtain medical services  
14 that are not available in the area in which the insured worker resides, or, if a  
15 physician determines it is necessary, the insured worker is accompanying a

1 spouse or dependent who is traveling to obtain medical services;

2 (C) the insured worker resides in the state and is  
3 noncommercially hunting or fishing for personal survival or the survival of  
4 dependents; or

5 (D) the insured worker is serving as a prospective or impaneled  
6 juror in a court; and

7 (2) a condition described in (1)(A) - (C) of this subsection occurs  
8 during an uninterrupted period of unemployment immediately following a week for  
9 which the insured worker has filed a compensable claim, and work has not been  
10 offered that would have been suitable for the insured worker before the illness,  
11 disability, hunting, fishing, or medical travel.

12 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 23.20.378 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

13 (d) For purposes of this section, an insured worker is not considered to be  
14 actively seeking work for a week unless the worker submits a signed statement on  
15 a form provided by the department that the worker made at least five contacts  
16 seeking work during the previous week or unless the worker establishes to the  
17 satisfaction of the department that fewer contacts are reasonable given the nature  
18 of the worker's prior training, experience, and earnings, and the availability of  
19 employment in the area. The form must advise the worker of the legal consequences  
20 under AS 11.56.210 and AS 23.20.387 of submitting a false statement.