

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 151(L&C)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/5/21

Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to unemployment benefits during a period of state or national**
2 **emergency resulting from a novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak; and**
3 **providing for an effective date."**

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

5 * **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section
6 to read:

7 UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: BENEFIT QUALIFICATION AND WAITING
8 WEEK DURING NOVEL CORONAVIRUS DISEASE OUTBREAK. (a) To the extent
9 consistent with federal law, an insured worker who is otherwise qualified to receive a benefit
10 under AS 23.20 (Alaska Employment Security Act) may not be disqualified for failure to
11 comply with AS 23.20.378(a) because of conduct by the insured worker or the employer of
12 the insured worker related to an outbreak of novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), including
13 conduct involving

14 (1) providing care, including medical care, to one or more persons;

1 (2) preventing or limiting the spread of COVID-19; or

2 (3) preventing or limiting economic loss or harm.

3 (b) For the duration of a state or national emergency for an outbreak of novel
4 coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the limitations under AS 23.20.375(b) do not apply to
5 benefits payable to an insured worker under AS 23.20 (Alaska Employment Security Act)
6 who is otherwise entitled to receive waiting-week credit or benefits under AS 23.20.375(a).

7 (c) The provision of a benefit as permitted by this section is not a violation of
8 AS 23.20.500.

9 (d) The commissioner of labor and workforce development shall administer this
10 section as required under AS 23.20.005(b) and 23.20.095.

11 (e) In this section, "insured worker" has the meaning given in AS 23.20.520.

12 * **Sec. 2.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
13 read:

14 UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: DEPENDENT ALLOWANCE DURING
15 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS DISEASE OUTBREAK. Notwithstanding AS 23.20.350(f) and to
16 the extent consistent with federal law, for the duration of a state or national emergency for an
17 outbreak of novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the allowance for dependents of an
18 insured worker under AS 23.20 (Alaska Employment Security Act) who establishes a benefit
19 year under AS 23.20.350 is \$75 per week for each dependent. The Department of Labor and
20 Workforce Development may not limit the total allowances for dependents paid to the insured
21 worker for each week of unemployment. In this section, "dependent" has the meaning given
22 in AS 23.20.350(g).

23 * **Sec. 3.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
24 read:

25 TRANSITION: REGULATIONS. The commissioner of labor and workforce
26 development may adopt regulations necessary to implement this Act. The regulations are not
27 subject to AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act).

28 * **Sec. 4.** Section 1 of this Act is repealed September 6, 2021.

29 * **Sec. 5.** Section 2 of this Act is repealed March 31, 2022.

30 * **Sec. 6.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
31 read:

- 1 RETROACTIVITY. Sections 1 - 3 of this Act are retroactive to April 1, 2021.
- 2 * **Sec. 7.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).