

Subject Unemployment for striking workers

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Summary

This bill amends existing unemployment law so that a striking worker would not be automatically ineligible for unemployment benefits during a labor dispute. Under current law, workers who leave employment due to participating in a strike or labor dispute are presumed ineligible for unemployment benefits for the duration of the strike or dispute.

This bill flips the presumption to one of eligibility and modifies the existing provisions that make a striking worker ineligible as a quit or discharge during a labor dispute. If the striking worker otherwise meets unemployment eligibility requirements, they could be eligible for benefits from the time the labor dispute begins, subject to the applicable one-week nonpayable period. A worker striking due to a labor dispute would not be considered to have quit, been discharged, suspended, or be on a leave of absence at the time the labor dispute begins, so as to make them ineligible. And if a striking worker does quit or is discharged during the strike or labor dispute, the effective date would be the date of the quit or discharge.