

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 176 Session of 2025

INTRODUCED BY ROBINSON, KANE, SAVAL, HAYWOOD, HUGHES,
BARTOLOTTA, TARTAGLIONE, PISCIOTTANO, CULVER, COSTA,
SANTARSIERO, SCHWANK AND MILLER, JANUARY 24, 2025

SENATOR ROBINSON, LABOR AND INDUSTRY, AS AMENDED, APRIL 1, 2025

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 5, 1936 (2nd Sp.Sess., 1937
2 P.L.2897, No.1), entitled "An act establishing a system of
3 unemployment compensation to be administered by the
4 Department of Labor and Industry and its existing and newly
5 created agencies with personnel (with certain exceptions)
6 selected on a civil service basis; requiring employers to
7 keep records and make reports, and certain employers to pay
8 contributions based on payrolls to provide moneys for the
9 payment of compensation to certain unemployed persons;
10 providing procedure and administrative details for the
11 determination, payment and collection of such contributions
12 and the payment of such compensation; providing for
13 cooperation with the Federal Government and its agencies;
14 creating certain special funds in the custody of the State
15 Treasurer; and prescribing penalties," in compensation,
16 providing for eligibility related to domestic violence.

17 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
18 hereby enacts as follows:

19 Section 1. The act of December 5, 1936 (2nd Sp.Sess., 1937
20 P.L.2897, No.1), known as the Unemployment Compensation Law, is
21 amended by adding a section to read:

22 Section 402.7. Eligibility Related to Domestic Violence.--

23 (a) An employe shall not be deemed to be ineligible under

24 section 402(b) for voluntarily leaving employment or section

1 402(e) for failure to attend work if, due to a domestic violence
2 situation, the individual's continued employment would
3 jeopardize the safety of the individual or a member of the
4 individual's family or household.

5 (b) Verification of a domestic violence situation may be
6 provided on the initial application for benefits through any one
7 of the following which documents recent domestic violence:

8 (1) An active or recently issued protective order or other
9 order, court records, a police record, medical treatment
10 records, social services records or child protective services
11 records.

12 (2) A statement supporting the existence of recent domestic
13 violence from a qualified professional from whom the individual
14 has sought assistance, such as a counselor, shelter worker,
15 member of the clergy, attorney or health care worker, or a
16 similar statement from a friend or relative from whom the
17 individual has sought assistance.

18 (3) A self-affirmation that the individual's continued
19 employment would jeopardize the safety of the individual or a
20 member of the individual's family or household due to the
21 domestic violence situation.

22 (4) Any other type of evidence that reasonably proves
23 domestic violence.

24 (c) The documentation of domestic violence shall remain
25 confidential, and the department may not disclose the existence
26 of a domestic violence situation in any notice provided to an
27 employer regarding the claim for compensation.

28 (d) If an individual who ~~submits documentation~~ VERIFIES <--
29 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE under subsection (b) ~~in a form acceptable to~~ <--
30 ~~the department~~ is otherwise eligible under section 401, the

individual shall be considered eligible, and the department
shall expedite a determination of eligibility under ~~section 501.~~ <--
~~An individual~~ SECTION 501. <--

(E) AN INDIVIDUAL who submits a self-affirmation under
subsection (b)(3) shall submit documentation of the domestic
violence situation under subsection (b)(1), (2) or (4) to the
department within one hundred twenty (120) days of the date of
application. This subsection shall not be construed to prohibit <--
~~redetermination of eligibility within eighteen (18) months of~~
~~the application for benefits if the department receives~~
~~information within eighteen (18) months of the application for~~
~~benefits indicating that the self affirmation submitted under~~
~~subsection (b)(3) included false information or an individual~~
~~fails to submit documentation of the domestic violence situation~~
~~under subsection (b)(1), (2) or (4) within one hundred twenty~~
~~(120) days of the date of application.~~ THE DEPARTMENT MAY, FOR <--
GOOD CAUSE, EXCUSE THE REQUIREMENT OR EXTEND THE PERIOD WITHIN
WHICH DOCUMENTATION MUST BE PROVIDED.

~~(e)~~ (F) The department shall grant relief from charges under <--
section 302.1 to base year employers for benefit charges related
to a claim that is determined eligible in accordance with this
section. Relief from charges shall be provided without a request
from the employer.

~~(f)~~ (G) Subject to subsection (c), if an employer is granted <--
relief from charges without a request under subsection ~~(e)~~ (F), <--
the department shall notify the employer that relief from
charges shall be granted without the need for the employer to
submit a request. Notice under this subsection may be included
on the eligibility determination provided to the employer or on
other relevant claim documentation delivered to the employer.

1 Section 2. The Department of Labor and Industry shall
2 consult with the Office of Victim Advocate and relevant advocacy
3 groups when implementing section 402.7 of the act, including
4 updates to the application for unemployment compensation,
5 updated notices to claimants and employers and the development
6 of any forms related to documentation of a domestic violence
7 situation.

8 Section 3. This act shall take effect in six months.