AN ACT to amend the labor law, in relation to permitting unemployment benefits in the case of voluntary separation from employment during the COVID-19 emergency

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Section 593 of the labor law is amended by adding a new subdivision 1-a to read as follows:

1-a. Voluntary separation during the COVID-19 declared emergency. A claimant shall not be disqualified from receiving benefits for voluntary separation from employment during the period of declared emergency under Executive Order 202, where such claimant: (a) is sixty-five years of age or older; (b) has an underlying health condition that puts such employee especially at-risk for severe illness from COVID-19, including, but not limited to chronic pulmonary, lung, liver or kidney disease; or (c) such claimant lives with a family member who is sixty-five years of age or older or who has an underlying condition that puts them at-risk for severe illness due to COVID-19 and such employment would result in potential exposure to COVID-19.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

LBD16179-01-0