

STATE OF NEW YORK

5913

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 24, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. FORREST -- read once and referred to the Committee on Labor

AN ACT to amend the labor law, in relation to clarifying the meaning of actively seeking work for purposes of unemployment benefits

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision 2 of section 591 of the labor law, as amended
2 by chapter 26 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as follows:
3 2. Availability, capability, and work search. No benefits shall be
4 payable to any claimant who is not capable of work or who is not ready,
5 willing and able to work in [~~his or her~~] their usual employment or in
6 any other for which [~~he or she is~~] they are reasonably fitted by train-
7 ing and experience and who is not actively seeking work. In order to be
8 actively seeking work a claimant must be engaged in systematic and
9 sustained efforts to find work. The commissioner shall promulgate regu-
10 lations defining systematic and sustained efforts to find work and
11 setting standards for the proof of work search efforts. Such regulations
12 shall take into account the need for claimants to provide child care for
13 their child or children. A claimant shall be considered to be actively
14 seeking work in accordance with this section if the individual is a
15 member of a labor organization, as defined in subdivision five of
16 section seven hundred one of this chapter, maintains contact with that
17 union, and uses and complies with the placement services of the union
18 hiring hall in seeking work. As used in this subdivision, unless the
19 context otherwise indicates, "union hiring hall" means a service
20 provided by a labor union or an entity associated with a labor union
21 that places employees with an employer under a collective bargaining
22 agreement or otherwise places employees with employers.
23 § 2. This act shall take effect on the same date as the reversion of
24 subdivision 2 of section 591 of the labor law as provided in section 10
25 of chapter 413 of the laws of 2003, as amended.

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

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