

To: Sen. Edith Prague and Rep. Kevin Ryan
Re: AAC Certain Eligibility Requirements for Unemployment Compensation
Claimants with a Disability.
RB# 5647, a Bill proposed by the CTDOL
From: John A. McCarthy, CTDOL

The department in this year's proposal reduced the number of hours a claimant would be required to be available each week to sixteen from last year's proposal of twenty required hours. This is very significant because during the entire history of the UC system all claimants were required to be available for full time work.

The department believes strongly that in light of the April 2005 court decision we need a legislative change. We have closely reviewed the testimony presented by others at the public hearing.

Our goal is a successful bill. We believe that our original language struck a fair and equitable balance. Judge Sheldon directed us to look at a legislative remedy and we did.

To date our proposal has been well received by business and labor. We have discussed it at the Employment Security Advisory Board meetings on a number of occasions.

We believe that maintaining the support of business and labor is good for all involved and will make passage much easier to accomplish.

With that said, after review of the comments of other interested parties we are willing to amend our proposed language.

Our language results in claimants with disabilities being able for the first time to be eligible for benefits even though they are not available for full time work. (It is important to note that all other claimants will still be required to be available for full time work).

One thing that the department cannot agree to is amending our proposal to make our day to day administration of the UC law subject to definitions of other state or federal agencies.

We will however amend our definition by adding the word CHRONIC. This recognizes a lesser standard but one that we believe we can live with.

Also we will address other expressed concerns by removing the three words after the comma on line 65 and all the words up to the comma on line 66. (this includes the removal of the specific sixteen hour standard)

In it's place we propose the following new language,

IN DETERMINING WHETHER THE INDIVIDUAL HAS SATISFIED THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBDIVISION (1) (B) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE ADMINISTRATOR SHALL CONSIDER THE INDIVIDUAL'S WORK HISTORY, EFFORTS TO FIND WORK, THE HOURS THAT THE INDIVIDUAL IS MEDICALLY PERMITTED TO WORK, AND THE INDIVIDUAL'S AVAILABILITY DURING SUCH HOURS FOR WORK WHICH IS SUITABLE IN LIGHT OF HIS IMPAIRMENT.

We respectfully ask your support for this JFS language.

Thanks, John.