



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

Raised Bill No. 317

LCO No. 2626



Referred to Committee on LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Introduced by:
(LAB)

AN ACT CONCERNING UNEMPLOYMENT FOR STRIKING EMPLOYEES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2022*) (a) The accumulation of
2 benefit rights by a claimant shall be suspended during a period of two
3 consecutive weeks beginning with the day after such claimant lost their
4 employment because of a strike or other labor dispute.

5 (b) Benefits shall not be suspended under this section if it is shown to
6 the satisfaction of the administrator that:

7 (1) The individual: (A) is not participating in or financing or directly
8 interested in the labor dispute that caused the unemployment; and (B)
9 does not belong to a trade, class or organization of workers, members of
10 which, immediately before the commencement of the labor dispute,
11 were employed at the premises at which the labor dispute occurred, and
12 are participating in or financing or directly interested in the dispute; or

13 (2) The individual's unemployment is due to the existence of a
14 lockout. A lockout exists, whether or not such action is to obtain for the

15 employer more advantageous terms, when an employer: (A) Fails to
16 provide employment to its employees with whom the employer is
17 engaged in a labor dispute, either by physically closing its plant or
18 informing its employees that there will be no work until the labor
19 dispute has terminated; or (B) makes an announcement that work will
20 be available after the expiration of the existing contract only under terms
21 and conditions that are less favorable to the employees than those
22 current immediately prior to such announcement, provided in either
23 event the recognized or certified bargaining agent shall have advised
24 the employer that the employees with whom the employer is engaged
25 in the labor dispute are ready, able and willing to continue working
26 pending the negotiation of a new contract under the terms and
27 conditions current immediately prior to such announcement.

28 Sec. 2. Section 31-237d of the general statutes is repealed and the
29 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2022*):

30 (a) The chairman of the board shall be the executive head of the
31 appeals division. He may delegate to any person employed in the
32 appeals division such authority as he deems reasonable and proper for
33 the effective administration of the division's responsibilities.

34 (b) In any appeal to the board, the board or any of its members may
35 hear the appeal, except that the full board shall hear and decide cases
36 [requiring the application of subsection (a)(3) of section 31-236 and
37 cases] in which a party has specifically requested in writing a hearing
38 by the full board, provided the decision on all appeals shall be by a
39 majority vote of the full board. The board shall approve or reject, by a
40 majority vote, each request for a hearing before the full board in
41 accordance with the criteria for granting such requests established in
42 regulations adopted pursuant to section 31-237g. In any case before the
43 board, the board may delegate to a referee or other qualified employee
44 of the appeals division the taking or hearing of evidence.

45 Sec. 3. Subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 31-226 of the general
46 statute is repealed. (*Effective October 1, 2022*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	31-237d
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	Repealer section

Statement of Purpose:

To allow striking employees to collect unemployment benefits.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]