

SUBJECT: Amending disqualification criteria for unemployment benefits

COMMITTEE: Business & Industry — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Longoria, Vasut, Cole, Frazier, J. González, Hinojosa, Isaac, Neave Criado

0 nays

1 absent — Lambert

WITNESSES: For — Emily Amps, Texas AFL-CIO (*Registered, but did not testify*: Eli Melendrez, Texas American Federation of Texas; Alissa Sughrue)

Against — None

On — Annie Spilman, NFIB; Eric Holen, Texas Workforce Commission

BACKGROUND: Concerns have been raised that some individuals experiencing involuntary separation from employment due to unexpected and unforeseen circumstances related to child care are disqualified from receiving unemployment benefits.

DIGEST: HB 1242 would allow an individual to qualify for unemployment benefits if the individual left the workplace to care for the individual’s minor child due to an unexpected illness, accident, or unforeseeable event and if no reasonable alternative care was available.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023 and would apply only to a claim for unemployment compensation benefits filed with the Texas Workforce Commission on or after the effective date of the bill.