

CHAPTER 441

(House Bill 205)

AN ACT to repeal Sections 5 (a) and (ca) of Article 95A of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1951 Edition and 1956 Supplement), title "Unemployment Insurance Law", sub-title "Benefits", and to add Section 5 ~~(b-1)~~ (B) to said Article and sub-title of the Code (1951 Edition), to follow immediately after Section 5 ~~(b)~~ (A) thereof and to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Sections 4 (c) ~~and (e)~~, and 5 (b) and (d) of said Article and sub-title of the Code (1951 Edition), revising certain conditions of eligibility for benefits and disqualifications for benefits under the unemployment insurance laws.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Sections 5 (a) and (ca) of Article 95A of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1951 Edition and 1956 Supplement), title "Unemployment Insurance Law", sub-title "Benefits", be and they are hereby repealed, and that Section 5 ~~(b-1)~~ (B), be and it is hereby added to said Article and sub-title of the Code (1951 Edition), to follow immediately after Section 5 ~~(b)~~ (A) thereof, and that Section 4 (c) ~~and (e)~~, and 5 (b) and (d) of said Article and sub-title of the Code (1951 Edition), be and they are hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, all to read as follows:

4. (c) He is able to work, and is available for work; provided no claimant shall be considered ineligible in any week of unemployment for failure to comply with the provisions of this sub-section if such failure is due to an illness or disability which occurs after he has registered for work and no work which would have been considered suitable at the time of his initial registration has been offered after the beginning of such illness or disability. *As used in this sub-section, the term "available for work" shall mean, among other things, that a claimant is actively seeking work. In determining whether or not the claimant has actively sought work, the Board shall consider whether the efforts he has made to obtain work have been reasonable and are such efforts as an unemployed individual is expected to make if he is honestly looking for work. The extent of the effort required shall depend upon labor market conditions in the claimant's area.*

Provided, that when an employer closes its entire plant or any portion of the plant for a vacation or inventory or other purpose causing unemployment for a certain and definable period not exceeding three weeks in any benefit year, the Board is authorized to exempt the employees who thereby become unemployed from producing evidence required under this section of the law, if it is found by the Board that the circumstances and labor market conditions justify such exemptions; however, such employees must comply with the provisions of Section 4 (a) and must be able to work and otherwise available for work. Exemption may be granted only with regard to a specific plant shut-down, and shall not be construed to exempt any claimant from

EXPLANATION: *Italics indicate new matter added to existing law.*

[Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.

CAPITALS indicate amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken out of bill.