

respect to which insurance is provided by the Authority is located in a [county where the average unemployment rate is at least 1 percent greater than the average unemployment rate for the United States, as determined in accordance with this section] QUALIFIED DISTRESSED COUNTY.

[(b) (1) Average unemployment rates for a county shall be those established by the State Employment Security Administration or any other agency or instrumentality responsible for establishing the rates.

(2) Average unemployment rates for the United States shall be those established by the United States Department of Labor or any other agency or department responsible for establishing the rates.

(c) The Authority shall:

(1) Annually review the unemployment rates; and

(2) Only consider annual unemployment rates established not more than 12 months before the date of the Authority's review.]

5-927.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(3) "Eligible business" means a for-profit business that:

(i) Is located in a [county that has an unemployment rate of 130 percent of the unemployment rate for the State during the most recent 4 consecutive quarters for which data are available and has a population under 200,000] QUALIFIED DISTRESSED COUNTY;

(ii) Is in good standing with each State regulatory authority with jurisdiction over the business of the applicant, including the State Workers' Compensation Commission, the Department of Assessments and Taxation, and the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation; and

(iii) Employs 500 or fewer employees.

5-1401.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(u) "Qualified distressed county" means a county that has developed in consultation with the municipal corporations located within the county and submitted to the Secretary a local strategic plan for economic development that has been approved by the Secretary and:

(1) For which the average rate of unemployment for the most recent 18-month period for which data are available exceeds 150% of the average rate of unemployment for the entire State during the same period; or

(2) For which the average per capita personal income for the most recent 24-month period for which data are available does not exceed 67% of the average personal per capita income for the entire State during the same period.