

Article 95A - Unemployment Insurance Law  
Section 4(c) and 21(j)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1979 Replacement Volume and 1983 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article 95A - Unemployment Insurance Law

4.

Any unemployed individual is eligible to receive benefits with respect to any week only if the Executive Director finds that:

(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 provisions of this subsection if such failure is due to 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. The Executive Director shall not use the blindness of an unsighted or other severely handicapped person as a factor making such a person ineligible under the "able to work" requirement of this subsection if the person was an employee of the Maryland Workshop for the Blind immediately prior to being unemployed. As used in this subsection, 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 Executive Director 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 10 weeks in any benefit year, the Executive Director 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 Executive Director that the circumstances and labor market conditions justify such exemptions; however, such employees must comply with the provisions of subsection (a) of this section and must be able to work and otherwise available for work. Exemption may be granted only with regard to a specific plant shutdown, and shall not be construed to exempt any claimant from meeting the requirements of this article that he is able to work and otherwise fully available for work.