

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] SECRETARY 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] SECRETARY that the circumstances and labor market conditions justify such exemptions[;]. PROVIDED FURTHER THAT WHEN AN EMPLOYER CLOSES ITS ENTIRE PLANT OR ANY PORTION OF THE PLANT FOR A PURPOSE OTHER THAN VACATION OR INVENTORY CAUSING UNEMPLOYMENT FOR A CERTAIN AND DEFINABLE PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING 26 WEEKS, THE SECRETARY IS AUTHORIZED TO EXEMPT THE EMPLOYEES WHO THEREBY BECOME UNEMPLOYED FROM ACTIVELY SEEKING WORK AS REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION OF LAW IF THE EXTENDED EXEMPTION OF UP TO 26 WEEKS IS JOINTLY REQUESTED BY THE EMPLOYER AND THE AFFECTED EMPLOYEES, THE EMPLOYER PROVIDES THAT ALL OF THE EMPLOYEES INCLUDED IN THE EXEMPTION SHALL RETURN TO WORK FOR THAT EMPLOYER WITHIN 26 WEEKS, AND THE SECRETARY DETERMINES THAT THE WORK SEARCH EXEMPTION FOR THE AFFECTED EMPLOYEES WILL PROMOTE PRODUCTIVITY AND ECONOMIC STABILITY WITHIN THE STATE. [however] 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.

Provided further that notwithstanding any other provisions of this subsection, no otherwise eligible individual shall be denied benefits for any week because he is in training with the approval of the [Executive Director] SECRETARY, nor shall such individual be denied benefits with respect to any week in which he is in training with the approval of the [Executive Director] SECRETARY by reason of the application of the provisions in this subsection relating to availability for work and active search for work or the provisions of § 6(d) of this article relating to failure to apply for, or refusal to accept suitable work.

If the failure results from a summons before any court of the United States or of any state to appear for jury duty, a claimant may not be considered ineligible in any week for failing to comply with the provisions of this subsection.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1986.