

# HOUSE BILL 998

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CF SB 846

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By: **Delegates Adams and Fisher**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2024

Assigned to: Economic Matters

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Department of Labor – Unemployment Insurance – Study on Actively**  
3 **Seeking Work Requirements**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of Labor to conduct a study on the  
5 actively seeking work requirement of the unemployment insurance system in the  
6 State and other states to evaluate the effects of ghosting on actively seeking work  
7 requirements; and generally relating to a study on actively seeking work  
8 requirements for unemployment insurance benefits.

9 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
10 That:

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

12 (2) “Actively seeking work requirements” means the requirement  
13 established under § 8–903(a)(iii) of the Labor and Employment Article to maintain  
14 eligibility for unemployment insurance benefits.

15 (3) “Department” means the Maryland Department of Labor.

16 (4) “Ghost” means the failure of a claimant for unemployment insurance  
17 benefits who is scheduled for a job interview with an employer to attend the interview or  
18 maintain contact with the employer after the interview is scheduled.

19 (b) The Department shall conduct a study on the actively seeking work  
20 requirements of the unemployment insurance system in the State and other states to  
21 evaluate the effects of ghosting on actively seeking work requirements.

22 (c) The study shall:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (1) examine the actively seeking work requirements of other states to  
2 determine:

3 (i) the ways in which the actively seeking work requirements of  
4 other states are different from those in the State; and

5 (ii) how the actively seeking work requirements of other states are  
6 verified to ensure a claimant remains eligible for unemployment insurance benefits;

7 (2) determine whether the Department, using existing resources, is able to  
8 perform periodic verification of the information reported by claimants to satisfy the  
9 claimant's actively seeking work requirement;

10 (3) evaluate and explain why the online BEACON system for claimants  
11 and employers does not or cannot allow an employer to input information about a claimant's  
12 actively seeking work requirement, including:

13 (i) confirmation that a claimant contacted an employer for work;  
14 and

15 (ii) a report of ghosting;

16 (4) determine whether it is feasible to remove requirements for employers  
17 to input certain information in the BEACON system, such as a claimant's Social Security  
18 number, for purposes of reporting incidents of ghosting; and

19 (5) examine any other factors relevant to reporting ghosting or verifying  
20 whether a claimant meets the actively seeking work requirement.

21 (d) On or before December 1, 2024, the Department shall report its findings and  
22 recommendations to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State  
23 Government Article.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
25 1, 2024.