

**2016 -- H 7933 SUBSTITUTE A**

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LC005400/SUB A  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016**

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A N A C T

RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS - EMPLOYMENT SECURITY -  
BENEFITS

Introduced By: Representatives Blazewski, Carnevale, Amore, Morin, and Messier

Date Introduced: March 11, 2016

Referred To: House Labor

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 28-44-12 of the General Laws in Chapter 28-44 entitled  
2 "Employment Security - Benefits" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **28-44-12. Availability and registration for work.** -- (a) An individual shall not be  
4 eligible for benefits for any week of his or her partial or total unemployment unless during that  
5 week he or she is physically able to work full-time and be available for full-time work. To prove  
6 availability for work, every individual partially or totally unemployed shall register for work and  
7 shall:

8           (1) File a claim for benefits within any time limits, with any frequency, and in any  
9 manner, in person or in writing, as the director may prescribe;

10           (2) Respond whenever duly called for work through the employment office; and

11           (3) Make an active, independent search for suitable full-time work.

12           (b) If an unemployed individual has been determined to be likely to exhaust regular  
13 benefits and to need reemployment services pursuant to a profiling system established by the  
14 director, the individual shall be eligible to receive benefits with respect to any week only if the  
15 individual participates in reemployment services, such as job search assistance services, unless  
16 the director determines that:

17           (1) The individual has completed those services; or

18           (2) There is justifiable cause for the individual's failure to participate in those services.

1           (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title to the contrary, individuals with a  
2 definite return-to-work date that is within twelve (12) weeks of their last day of physical work, as  
3 certified by their employer on the employer separation notice provided to the department, shall be  
4 exempt from the work search requirements of subsections (a)(2) and (a)(3) of this section.

5           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

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1           This act would exempt unemployment insurance benefits recipients who have a definite  
2 return-to-work date that is within twelve (12) weeks of their last day of physical work, from the  
3 work search requirements associated with collecting unemployment insurance benefits.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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