



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 538

HOUSE BILL NO. 779

By Representatives Lamberth, Gant, White, Todd

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 773

By Senators Johnson, Bailey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4; Title 8; Title 33; Title 40; Title 50; Title 58; Title 63; Title 68 and Title 71, relative to COVID-19 response.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 50-7-302(a)(5), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

Notwithstanding this subdivision (a)(5), the commissioner, in the commissioner's sole discretion, may suspend the one-week waiting period imposed by this subdivision (a)(5) to the extent necessary to allow the commissioner to effectively administer the state unemployment insurance program in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and to comply with, and maximize the benefits to this state from, federal legislation related to emergency unemployment benefits, including, but not limited to, the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (15 U.S.C. § 9001 et seq.), and any extension or modification of that act.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 50-7-403(d), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

Notwithstanding subdivision (d)(1)(A), the commissioner, in the commissioner's sole discretion, may authorize, in whole or in part, a non-charge to the account of a contributory employer that is in the claimant's base period for any unemployment benefits paid to a claimant to the extent necessary to allow the commissioner to effectively administer the state unemployment insurance program in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and to comply with, and maximize the benefits to this state from, federal legislation related to emergency unemployment benefits, including, but not limited to, the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (15 U.S.C. § 9001 et seq.), and any extension or modification of that act.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 33-6-406(a), is amended by adding the following sentence before the word "Failure":

If the original of the certificate is unavailable, then an identical hard copy or electronic copy submitted by reliable electronic means must be accepted for purposes of this section.

SECTION 4. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. Sections 1 and 2 of this act are repealed July 1, 2022, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: May 3, 2021



CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RANDY MCNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 25th day of May 2021



BILL LEE, GOVERNOR