

SENATE BILL 234

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(PRE-FILED)

4lr4568
CF HB 197

By: **Chair, Finance Committee (By Request – Departmental – Labor)**

Requested: September 28, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Unemployment Insurance – Work Search Requirement – Exemption for Federal**
3 **Civilian Employees During a Federal Government Shutdown**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Secretary of Labor to exempt a federal civilian
5 employee who has been furloughed from the requirement to be actively seeking work
6 for unemployment insurance benefits eligibility if, during the furlough, the employee
7 remains able to work, available for work, and work-attached; and generally relating
8 to unemployment insurance eligibility.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
10 Article – Labor and Employment
11 Section 8-903(a)(1)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

14 BY adding to
15 Article – Labor and Employment
16 Section 8-903(d)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

21 **Article – Labor and Employment**

22 8-903.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (a) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, to be eligible for benefits
2 an individual shall be:

- 3 (i) able to work;
- 4 (ii) available for work; and
- 5 (iii) actively seeking work.

6 (D) (1) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS TITLE, THE
7 SECRETARY MAY EXEMPT A CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
8 FROM THE WORK SEARCH REQUIREMENT UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(1)(III) OF THIS
9 SECTION DURING A PERIOD IN WHICH THE CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE IS FURLOUGHED
10 DUE TO A FULL OR PARTIAL FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN CAUSED BY A LAPSE
11 IN FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS IF, DURING THE FURLOUGH, THE CIVILIAN
12 EMPLOYEE REMAINS ABLE TO WORK AND AVAILABLE FOR WORK IN ACCORDANCE
13 WITH THIS SECTION AND WORK-ATTACHED.

14 (2) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION, A CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE
15 OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS FURLOUGHED IF, DURING A FULL OR PARTIAL
16 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN CAUSED BY A LAPSE IN FEDERAL
17 APPROPRIATIONS, THE EMPLOYEE IS:

- 18 (I) TEMPORARILY BARRED FROM WORKING; AND
- 19 (II) PLACED IN A TEMPORARY NONPAY STATUS.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
21 1, 2024.