GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2009

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HOUSE DRH50448-LR-99 (03/25)

Short Title:	High Unemployment Triggers State Response.	(Public)
Sponsors:	Representative Pierce.	
Referred to:		

1	A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2	AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A STATE GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO
3	HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT IN A COUNTY WHENEVER THE COUNTY'S
4	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE EXCEEDS FIFTEEN AND FIVE-TENTHS PERCENT FOR
5	TWO CONSECUTIVE MONTHS.
6	The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
7	SECTION 1. Response Team. – There is established the Interagency Emergency
8	Response Team for High Unemployment Areas (Response Team). The State entities on the
9	Response Team, whose missions span the areas of economic development, job creation,
10	workforce training and development, employment services, public assistance, education, public
11	health, and public safety, shall make an emergency response in any county in the State
12	whenever a local area unemployment statistic for a county (based on unadjusted data) exceeds
13	fifteen and five-tenths percent (15.5%) for two consecutive months.
14	The participating State entities on the Response Team include:
15	(1) Department of Administration.
16	(2) Department of Commerce.
17	(3) Department of Crime Control and Public Safety.
18	(4) Department of Health and Human Services.
19	(5) Department of Insurance.
20	(6) Department of Labor.
21	(7) Department of Public Instruction.
22	(8) Department of Transportation.
23	(9) Employment Security Commission.
24	(10) The University of North Carolina.
25	(11) North Carolina Community College System.
26	The Commissioner of Labor, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the
27	Chief Deputy Commissioner of the Employment Security Commission shall act cooperatively
28	as the Executive Committee leading the Response Team. All policy, strategic, and tactical
29	decisions of the Executive Committee shall be made by majority vote. Each participating State
30	entity shall be represented by at least two high-level employees designated by the head of the
31	entity, each of whom must have the authority to activate and coordinate the entity's high
32	unemployment emergency response pursuant to this act. With the approval of the Governor, the
33	Executive Committee has the power to request, and shall receive immediately, from all officers,
34	agents, and departments of the executive branch of State government any information
35	ascertainable, or within their possession, and any assistance within their power.



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l	The Executive Committee shall consult with the Governor to provide
2	recommendations concerning the issuance of Executive Orders by the Governor, as requested.
3	The Department of Administration shall provide lead support assistance to the Response Team
1	as requested by the Executive Committee.
	SECTION 2. High unemployment trigger/action. – The Chief Deputy
	Commissioner of the Employment Security Commission shall monitor continually the
	unemployment rates throughout the State and shall notify the other members of the Executive
	Committee whenever a local area unemployment statistic for a county (based on unadjusted
	data) exceeds fifteen and five-tenths percent (15.5%) for two consecutive months so that the
	Response Team may be activated immediately.
	At the direction of the Executive Committee, the Response Team shall take all
	coordinated actions within the power of the respective participating State entities necessary to:
	(1) Alleviate the extraordinary burden of high unemployment by simplifying
	and expediting, to the fullest extent allowed by law, applications for
	unemployment compensation, public assistance, and other needed services.
	(2) Intensify economic development and job creation activities in the county and
	the surrounding area.
	(3) Educate the citizens of the county about available retraining and educational
	opportunities in the region and simplify access to those resources.
	(4) Obtain the assistance of available federal government resources for the
	(5) benefit of the affected citizens of the county.
	(5) Open additional, temporary offices of the participating entities in the county, as needed.
	(6) Offer additional education and training opportunities in the county, as appropriate.
	(7) Provide assistance to local law enforcement and crime prevention agencies
	as requested by those local agencies having jurisdiction.
	(8) Provide assistance to municipal and county governments, as appropriate.
	(9) Engage in any other lawful activity that lessens the adverse effect of, or
	enhances the State's response to, a high unemployment emergency.
	SECTION 3. Suspending the response to, a men discription of the response to the response
	for the county (based on unadjusted data) drops to or below fifteen and five-tenths percent
	(15.5%), and remains at or below that level for three consecutive months, then the Response
	Team shall suspend its response in the county unless the Executive Committee determines, with
	the approval of the Governor, that a continued post-emergency response is warranted. In that
	case, the Executive Committee may continue with an appropriate post-emergency response in
	that county for up to six months.
	SECTION 4. Reporting. – Beginning January 1, 2010, and annually thereafter, the
	Executive Committee shall report to the Governor and to the General Assembly on Response
	Team actions during the previous year and may recommend legislative proposals related to
	State and local government responses to high unemployment emergencies.

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State and local government responses to high unemployment emergencies. SECTION 5. Effective date. – This act is effective when it becomes law.