

HOUSE BILL 197

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(PRE-FILED)

4r4569
CF SB 234

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

Requested: September 28, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Economic Matters

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 1, 2024

CHAPTER _____

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:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 Article – Labor and Employment

2 8–903.

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

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

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

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

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

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
 23 1, 2024.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.