

HOUSE BILL 197

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(PRE-FILED)

4lr4569
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

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.

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

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

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

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