

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DRAFT

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend the Coronavirus Support Temporary Amendment Act of 2021 and the Coronavirus Support Congressional Review Emergency Amendment Act of 2021 to sunset the application of certain unemployment compensation provisions related to the public health emergency on September 4, 2021.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Coronavirus Unemployment Compensation Provisions Sunset Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2021.”.

Sec. 2. (a) On March 1, 2021, the Council passed Bill 24-140, the Coronavirus Support Temporary Amendment Act of 2021, which took effect on June 24, 2021, and will expire on February 4, 2022. Section 101 and section 102(a) of Bill 24-140 extended provisions of law initially implemented at the onset of the coronavirus pandemic for the purpose of allowing more District workers to access unemployment benefits, including under federal programs for which federal funding was provided, during the public health emergency as declared by the Mayor. Bill 24-140 also provided additional benefits, such as payment of benefits for the first week of unemployment, and relaxed restrictions and requirements to reduce barriers to accessing unemployment benefits.

36 (b) On May 27, 2021, the Council passed Bill 24-257, the Coronavirus Support
37 Congressional Review Emergency Amendment Act of 2021, which took effect on June 7, 2021,
38 and will expire on September 5, 2021. Sections 101 and 102(a) of Bill 24-257 are identical to
39 sections 101 and 102(a) of Bill 24-140.

40 (c) (1) According to Mayor’s Order 2021-96, the public health emergency first declared
41 on March 11, 2020 ended at 12:01 am on July 25, 2021.

42 (2) Under federal law, the unemployment extension programs known as the Pandemic
43 Extended Unemployment Compensation and the Federal Pandemic Unemployment
44 Compensation will no longer be available to workers claiming unemployment benefits for weeks
45 of unemployment beginning after September 4, 2021. Federal funds provided to the District for
46 paying benefits under federal programs will also no longer be available for weeks of
47 unemployment after September 4, 2021.

48 (d) The end of the public health emergency, the return to work of many workers who
49 were unemployed due to the coronavirus pandemic, the reopening of businesses, and the
50 sunseting of the federal programs and funding necessitate sunseting sections 101 and 102(a) of
51 Bills 24-140 and 24-257 to effectuate a return to the District’s permanent and regular provisions
52 of the District of Columbia Unemployment Compensation Act, effective August 28, 1935 (49
53 Stat. 946; D.C. Official Code § 51-101 *et seq.*), for claimants seeking unemployment insurance
54 benefits on or after September 5, 2021.

55 Sec. 5. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances
56 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that
57 Coronavirus Unemployment Compensation Provisions Sunset Emergency Amendment Act of
58 2021 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 6. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

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