



TO: The Honorable Members of the PA House Labor & Industry Committee
FROM: Alex Halper, SVP, Government Affairs
DATE: June 4, 2024
RE: Support S.B. 1109 to improve Unemployment Compensation

The PA Chamber urges you to support S.B. 1109 to improve the administration of the Unemployment Compensation law's work search requirement. The bill and an amendment are scheduled to be considered tomorrow.

Unemployment compensation claimants are generally required to actively search for work and apply for and accept positions in their field. Unfortunately, employers report interviewing job candidates who admit they are only applying to comply with the work search requirement, or never show up for the interview or work, known as "ghosting."

SB 1109 would clarify UC eligibility standards to codify that an individual is not eligible for benefits if they discourage their own employment. This legislation would not impact the vast majority of UC claimants who are utilizing the program appropriately and actively seeking employment.

We understand an amendment will be offered on behalf of the claimant advocacy community adding a number of clarifications. While we do not believe this amendment is necessary, we also do not believe it is inconsistent with the intent of the underlying bill or current practice as it relates to evaluating claims, and therefore we are neutral on the amendment.

Employers of all sizes and industries continue to report difficulty hiring. This workforce crisis is holding back PA's economy, and employers are looking to lawmakers to advance policies that help unemployed Pennsylvanians, and bills like S.B. 1109 that encourage people into the workforce.

We urge you to support this bill. Please contact Alex Halper at ahalper@pachamber.org or 717-645-8730 with questions or to discuss.