HOUSE BILL 128:
An Act to Reemploy NC's Workforce.

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Commerce and Insurance. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	**Date:**	May 20, 2021
Introduced by:	Reps. K. Hall, Elmore, D. Hall, Willis	**Prepared by:**	Jeremy Ray* Committee Co-Counsel
Analysis of:	PCS to Second Edition H128-CSBHa-19		

OVERVIEW: The PCS to House Bill 128 would remove the original contents of House Bill 128 and make changes to the unemployment laws of North Carolina.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 128 would make the following changes to the unemployment laws of North Carolina:

Section 1 –

- Direct the Division of Employment Security (DES) to seek approval from the U.S. Department of Labor to use the $300 per week supplement authorized under the federal FPUC program as a signing bonus for unemployed claimants receiving benefits who accept reemployment. The signing bonus would be payable as follows:
    - One thousand five hundred dollar ($1,500) bonus for accepting reemployment on or before June 1, 2021, payable in two installments: fifty percent (50%) after 30 days of employment and the remainder after 60 days of employment.
    - An eight hundred dollar ($800.00) bonus for accepting reemployment on or before July 1, 2021, payable in two installments: fifty percent (50%) after 20 days of employment and the remainder after 60 days of employment.

Section 2 –

- Clarify that those receiving unemployment insurance benefits must make three job contacts per week.
- Require claimants to respond to interview requests by an employer offering suitable work within 48 hours using the contact information provided by the employer.
- Require claimants to schedule an interview with an employer within seven days of the interview request, or outside of seven days if mutually agreed to by both parties.
- Require claimants to attend reemployment activities associated with the interview request if those activities are required by an employer in their normal course of recruitment.
- Permit employers to report to DES that a claimant has not responded to interview requests, refused to schedule an interview within seven days of the interview request, or failed to appear for a scheduled interview. It would require DES to audit those reports submitted by employers.
- Disqualify a claimant for any remaining unemployment insurance benefit if the claimant fails, absent good cause, to do any of the following three or more times during a benefit year:

  - Respond to an interview request within 48 hours.
  - Schedule an interview with an employer within seven days of an interview offer.
  - Appear for a scheduled interview.
  - Attend a reemployment activity associated with the interview request.
- Require DES to audit at least twenty-five percent (25%) of all weekly certifications filed with the Division each week.
- Require DES to utilize a third-party firm when necessary to satisfy the audit requirements of the bill.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Section 2 would become effective when it becomes law and apply to claims with weekly certification under G.S. 96-14.9 filed on or after that date, the remainder of the act would become effective when it becomes law.

**Cindy Avrette, Staff Attorney with the Legislative Analysis Division, substantially contributed to this bill analysis.*