

Bill Summary
2nd Session of the 57th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 1628
Version:	INT
Request No.:	2546
Author:	Sen. Daniels
Date:	01/22/2020

Bill Analysis

SB 1628 modifies the circumstances under which a person may be deemed unemployed. The measure requires an individual to show that, in addition to other requirements provided for in current law, he or she has suffered at least a 15% loss of work hours or pay within the 8 weeks immediately preceding the filing of the claimant's initial claim for the current benefit year and the loss persisted through the week the initial claim is filed. The measure also removes the requirement for an individual to an Oklahoma Employment Security Commission claims representative in order to claim unemployment benefits and authorizes the Commission to obtain additional information through an internet claims service. Claimants with language barriers may still file for unemployment benefits via telephone. The measure states that the deadlines for payment of unemployment taxes and the method of payment shall be set by Commission rules.

The measure exempts services from private for-profit educational institutions from certain terms and conditions placed on employees of public educational institutions. An individual employed by a non-seasonal employer or employers during the base period of the individual's benefit year are authorized to claim unemployment benefits between seasons based on the wages he or she may earn in the course of non-seasonal employment.

The measure further authorizes the employment account with a balance of less than \$10.00 after an employee is terminated to be closed. Taxpayers will not be liable for any further for the debt for the closure of a debit account. No refunds will be paid to the taxpayer for a closed credit account. Employees of a government unit, private business, or non-profit entity are required to keep employment information confidential.

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