

1 AN ACT relating to unemployment insurance.

2 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

3 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 341 IS CREATED TO  
4 READ AS FOLLOWS:

5 *(1) For the purposes of this section:*

6 *(a) "Declining occupation" means an occupation with a lack of sufficient*  
7 *current demand in the individual's labor market area or the*  
8 *Commonwealth for the occupational skills possessed by the individual, and*  
9 *the lack of employment opportunities is expected to continue for an*  
10 *extended period of time. "Declining occupation" includes an occupation for*  
11 *which there is a seasonal variation in demand in the labor market or the*  
12 *Commonwealth, if the individual has no other skill for which there is a*  
13 *current demand.*

14 *(b) "High-demand occupation" means an occupation in a labor market area or*  
15 *the Commonwealth as a whole in which the secretary and the Kentucky*  
16 *Workforce Innovation Board determine that work opportunities are*  
17 *available.*

18 *(c) "High-technology occupation" means an occupation which requires a high*  
19 *degree of training in the sciences, engineering, or other advanced learning*  
20 *area and has work opportunities available in the labor market area or the*  
21 *Commonwealth. It shall include life sciences, advanced manufacturing,*  
22 *biotechnology, alternative fuels, insurance, environmental technology, and*  
23 *technologically advanced green jobs.*

24 *(2) Except when the result would be inconsistent with KRS 341.094, 341.096, and*  
25 *341.700 to 341.740, the provisions of this chapter which apply to claims for, or*  
26 *the payment of, regular benefits shall apply to claims for, and the payment of,*  
27 *additional unemployment and training benefits.*

- 1 (3) (a) The purpose of additional unemployment and training benefits is to provide  
2 the individual with continued eligibility for benefits so that the individual  
3 may pursue a training program for entry into a high-demand or high-  
4 technology occupation.
- 5 (b) Additional unemployment and training benefits shall be available to an  
6 individual who was laid off or voluntarily quit with good cause attributable  
7 to the individual's employer from full-time employment in a declining  
8 occupation or who was involuntarily separated from full-time employment  
9 as a result of a permanent reduction of operations. The individual must  
10 exhaust all other extended benefits pursuant to KRS 341.700 and any other  
11 state and federally funded unemployment benefits before he or she is  
12 eligible for additional unemployment and training benefits.
- 13 (4) The weekly benefit amount shall be subject to the same terms and conditions as  
14 regular unemployment benefits. The additional unemployment and training  
15 benefits shall be for a maximum of thirteen (13) weeks. Both contributory and  
16 reimbursable employers shall be relieved of charges for training extension  
17 benefits.
- 18 (5) The course or courses for the training program shall be full-time enrollment that  
19 would likely result in employment in a high-demand or high-technology  
20 occupation. The secretary shall make available to serve as a guide a list of high-  
21 demand, high-technology, and declining occupations. The lists shall be available  
22 on the department's Web site and at the workforce and career centers.
- 23 (6) A declining or high-demand occupation shall be determined by the secretary and  
24 the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board using Kentucky labor market  
25 information for each region in the state. The secretary and the Kentucky  
26 Workforce Innovation Board shall identify declining and high-demand industries  
27 by the corresponding North American Industry Classification system code.