

House Bill 117 (AM)

By: Representatives Birdsong of the 104th, Skipper of the 116th, Buck of the 112th, Smyre of the 111th, Royal of the 140th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 34-8-194 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 grounds for disqualification of unemployment benefits, so as to provide that leaving an
3 employer voluntarily because of the transfer of a spouse from one military assignment to
4 another shall not disqualify a person from such benefits; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
5 other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Code Section 34-8-194 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to grounds for
9 disqualification of unemployment benefits, is amended by striking in its entirety paragraph
10 (1) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

11 “(1) For the week or fraction thereof in which the individual has filed an otherwise valid
12 claim for benefits after such individual has left the most recent employer voluntarily
13 without good cause in connection with the individual’s most recent work. Good cause
14 shall be determined by the Commissioner according to the circumstances in the case;
15 provided, however, that leaving an employer to accompany a spouse who has been
16 reassigned from one military assignment to another shall be deemed to be for good
17 cause; provided, however, that the employer’s account shall not be charged for any
18 benefits paid out to the person who leaves to accompany a spouse reassigned from one
19 military assignment to another. To requalify following a disqualification, an individual
20 must secure subsequent employment for which the individual earns insured wages equal
21 to at least ten times the weekly benefit amount of the claim and then becomes
22 unemployed through no fault on the part of the individual. Notwithstanding the foregoing,
23 in the Commissioner’s determination the burden of proof of good work connected cause
24 for voluntarily leaving such work shall be on the individual. Benefits shall not be denied
25 under this paragraph, however, to an individual for separation from employment pursuant
26 to a labor management contract or agreement or pursuant to an established employer plan,

1 program, policy, layoff, or recall which permits the individual, because of lack of work,
2 to accept a separation from employment;"

3 **SECTION 2.**

4 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.