

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES ON UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE IN THE
REGULATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The Department of Labor and Workforce Development proposes to change regulations on unemployment insurance including definitions, work search requirements, filing for benefits, registering for work, suitable work and determining the cash value of employer-provided food, lodging or other non-cash remuneration to employees. The proposed regulations also address how employers should file reports with the Employment and Training Services Division.

The Department of Labor and Workforce Development proposes to adopt regulation changes in Title 8 of the Alaska Administrative Code, dealing with unemployment insurance, including the following:

(1) 8 AAC 85 is proposed to be changed as follows:

- 8 AAC 85.010(a)(2) and (24) – Amend definition of “division” to conform with division’s new name and add a new definition of “proceeding” for the purposes of AS 23.20.400.
- 8 AAC 85.020(d) – Technical correction to add back the requirement that employers with \$1 million or more in taxable wages file reports online.
- 8 AAC 85.100(b), (c) and (d) – Remove mailing as an option for claim filing.
- 8 AAC 85.110(b) – Technical correction to clarify where out-of-state union members register for work.
- 8 AAC 85.352(a) and (b) – Clarify work search requirements.
- 8 AAC 85.390 – Provide a new method for determining the cash value of employer-provided food, lodging or other non-cash remuneration.
- 8 AAC 85.410(a) – Change the meaning of suitable work to include any work in the claimant’s customary occupation or for which the claimant has skills or experience, regardless of the length of the claimant’s unemployment.

You may comment on the proposed regulation changes, including the potential costs to private persons of complying with the proposed changes, by submitting written comments to Pamela Frenette at P.O. Box 115509, Juneau, Alaska 99811, or pamela.frenette@alaska.gov. The comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on November 19, 2015.

You may submit written questions relevant to the proposed action to pamela.frenette@alaska.gov. The questions must be received at least 10 days before the end of the public comment period. The Department of Labor and Workforce Development will aggregate its response to substantially similar questions and make the questions and responses available on the Alaska Online Public Notice System.

If you are a person with a disability who needs a special accommodation in order to participate in this process, please contact Pamela Frenette at (907) 465-1152 or pamela.frenette@alaska.gov no later than (month and day) November 9, 2015, to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.

A copy of the proposed regulation changes is available on the Alaska Online Public Notice System and by contacting Pamela Frenette at (907) 465-1152 or pamela.frenette@alaska.gov.

After the public comment period ends, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development will either adopt the proposed regulation changes or other provisions dealing with the same subject, without further notice, or decide to take no action. The language of the final regulations may be different from that of the

proposed regulations. YOU SHOULD COMMENT DURING THE TIME ALLOWED IF YOUR INTERESTS COULD BE AFFECTED.

Statutory Authority: AS 23.20.045, AS 23.20.080, AS 23.20.330, AS 23.20.375, AS 23.20.378

Statutes Being Implemented, Interpreted, or Made Specific: AS 23.20.080, AS 23.20.085, AS 23.20.105, AS 23.20.165, AS 23.20.330, AS 23.20.340, AS 23.20.360, AS 23.20.375, AS 23.20.378, AS 23.20.383, AS 23.20.385, AS 23.20.400, AS 23.20.505, AS 23.20.520, AS 23.20.530

Fiscal Information: The proposed regulation changes are not expected to require an increased appropriation.

DATE:

10/14/15


Heidi Drygas, Commissioner