
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 440

AN ACT CONCERNING UNEMPLOYMENT FOR STRIKING WORKERS.

SUMMARY

Current law generally disqualifies unemployment benefit claimants during any week in which their unemployment resulted from a labor dispute. For labor disputes that start on or after December 14, 2027, this bill lifts this disqualification once the dispute has lasted for 14 continuous days.

Existing law similarly allows claimants to qualify for benefits during a labor dispute, with no waiting period, if the (1) unemployment is caused by a lockout (for example, the employer closed the employment premises) or (2) claimant is not participating in the dispute and does not belong to a trade, class, or organization of workers participating in, financing, or directly interested in the dispute (for example, non-union employees at a business temporarily closed by a strike).

By law, unchanged by the bill, to be eligible for unemployment benefits a claimant generally must (1) file and claim and register as required by the Department of Labor; (2) be able to work, available for work, and making reasonable efforts to obtain work; and (3) have earned a certain amount of wages prior to their unemployment (CGS § 31-235).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

COMMITTEE ACTION

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 9 Nay 4 (03/19/2026)