



COVID19 Resource Center

Georgia Department of Labor Expanded Rules and Resources

This week, the Georgia Department of Labor has issued several new rules to support employees across our state during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Georgia Chamber will continue to work with the Department in their efforts to protect our workforce during this unprecedented time. The new rules alongside expanded user-friendly tools like the new Claims Status Dashboard and the single upload data entry for employers are crucial in this effort.

Georgia unemployment benefits have now been expanded to cover individuals temporarily unable to work due to the COVID-19 public health emergency who plan to return to work when the emergency ceases. Additionally, the Department of Labor has:

- Extended the length of time an individual can collect benefits from 14 weeks to 26 weeks
- Ensured that employers' unemployment insurance tax rate will not be affected by claims during this emergency
- Stated that the first \$300 of wages earned in a week will not count against eligible unemployment benefits paid
- Suspended work search and other in-person requirements for benefit claimants
- Mandated that employers file partial claims (for both full-time and part-time employees) on behalf of employees affected by COVID-19, therefore expediting the issuance of payment to affected workers

Labor Commissioner Mark Butler commented, "In order to support our economy and ultimate recovery, we must support Georgia's labor force during this time. Through these new emergency rules, we are expanding coverage and streamlining our processes to provide timely relief."

Georgia Chamber CEO Chris Clark said, "We deeply value the work ethic, loyalty, and perseverance of Georgia's workforce. Commissioner Butler has prioritized efficient and effective policies for protecting our workers and, along with Governor Kemp, has positioned Georgia for a quick and full recovery when this crisis passes."

To assist applicants in the claims process, the Department of Labor is making configuration changes daily to improve the application process for individuals and employers. Information on filing an unemployment claim, details on how employers must file partial claims, and resources for other reemployment assistance can be found on the agency's webpage at www.gdol.ga.gov.

To further support navigating these new rules and expanded resources, the Georgia Chamber will host a virtual conference with Commissioner Butler on Thursday, April 2, 2020 at 10:00AM EST. Details for this call, as well as numerous other COVID-19 resources, can be found on the Chamber's website at www.gachamber.com/covid19.