

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 66

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 3, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator NICHOLAS P. SCUTARI

District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)

Senator FRED H. MADDEN, JR.

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Ruiz, Cunningham, Sarlo, Pou, Gopal, Greenstein, Cruz-Perez, Stack, Turner, B.Smith, Cryan, Codey, Rice, Zwicker, Singleton, Vitale, Lagana, Diegnan, Gill, Johnson, Sacco, Beach, A.M.Bucco, Oroho, Schepisi, Testa, Holzapfel, Bramnick, Connors, Corrado, Doherty, Durr, O'Scanlon, Pennacchio, Singer, Stanfield, Thompson and Polistina

SYNOPSIS

Urges Governor to immediately address unemployment claim backlog and reopen State offices closed to public.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/3/2022)

1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** urging the Governor to immediately
 2 address unemployment claim backlog and reopen all State
 3 offices closed to the public.

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 5 **WHEREAS**, Rising COVID-19 infections prompted Governor Murphy
 6 to declare a Statewide stay-at-home order on March 21, 2020
 7 through Executive Order No. 107, which required all employers to
 8 either reduce staff on site to the minimum number necessary or
 9 utilize work-from-home arrangements if feasible; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Many State departments and agencies provide invaluable
 11 services to the residents of New Jersey, many of which are
 12 particularly important during a time of crisis such as the COVID-19
 13 pandemic, and the quality of these services has decreased due to the
 14 restriction on employees working on-site; and

15 **WHEREAS**, The online unemployment filing system managed by the
 16 Department of Labor and Workforce Development is not equipped
 17 to handle the substantial number of unemployment claims filed
 18 during the COVID-19 pandemic and many individuals have
 19 encountered issues during the unemployment filing process that are
 20 still unresolved due to the restriction on in-person customer
 21 assistance; and

22 **WHEREAS**, The One-Stop Career Centers throughout the State
 23 managed by the Department of Labor and Workforce Development
 24 that provide employment assistance to many unemployed
 25 individuals have remain closed and the failure to reopen these
 26 centers may result in further economic harm to the unemployed
 27 individuals and, on a larger scale, the State of New Jersey; and

28 **WHEREAS**, Vaccination efforts and other public health measures have
 29 led to a low infection and hospitalization rate in the State of New
 30 Jersey; now, therefore,

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 32 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

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 34 1. This House respectfully urges the Governor to take all
 35 measures necessary to immediately address the unemployment
 36 claim backlog and to immediately reopen all State offices which
 37 have been closed to the public during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 39 2. The Department of Labor and Workforce Development is
 40 requested to provide to the Legislature, within 30 days of passage of
 41 this resolution, a report consisting of unemployment statistics
 42 including: the number people waiting for unemployment claims, the
 43 average length of time that it takes for unemployment claims to be
 44 completed, how much money has been paid out in unemployment
 45 claims, the number of employees currently working on
 46 unemployment claims, the average time each employee spends on
 47 each claim, and any other statistics deemed relevant by the
 48 Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development.

SR66 SCUTARI, MADDEN

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1 3. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
2 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the Governor
3 and Lieutenant Governor of the State of New Jersey.

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6 **STATEMENT**

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8 This Senate resolution urges the Governor to take all measures
9 necessary to immediately address the unemployment claim backlog
10 and to immediately reopen all State offices which have been closed
11 to the public during the COVID-19 pandemic, and requests that a
12 report of unemployment statistics be provided to the Legislature
13 within 30 days of the passage of the resolution.