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**ALLEGHENY COUNTY LABOR COUNCIL**  
**REPORT OF LEGAL COUNSEL**  
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**CHANGE IN PENNSYLVANIA UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION LAW**

Act 6 (S.B. 1030) of the 195<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, approved on June 17, 2011 and effective January 1, 2012, made numerous amendments to the Pennsylvania UC Law. One such amendment added a new qualification in order to secure compensation that the claimant makes “an active search for suitable employment”. The statute as amended provides:

Compensation shall be payable to any employee who is or becomes unemployed, and who—

\* \* \*

(b) (1) Is making an active search for suitable employment. The requirements for "active search" shall be established by the department and shall include, at a minimum, all of the following:

(i) Registration by a claimant for employment search services offered by the Pennsylvania CareerLink system or its successor agency within thirty (30) days after initial application for benefits.

(ii) Posting a resume on the system's database, unless the claimant is seeking work in an employment sector in which resumes are not commonly used.

(iii) Applying for positions that offer employment and wages similar to those the claimant had prior to his unemployment and which are within a forty-five (45) minute commuting distance.

43 P.S. §801.

It is our understanding that a claimant can satisfy element (iii) by signing up for the union's hiring hall (if the union has one) or referral list, although that is not expressly stated in the statute.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

**JOSEPH S. PASS, ESQUIRE**