SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 2340

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES FISHER (125) (Sponsor) AND WALSH (Co-sponsor).

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D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal sections 285.309, 288.040, 288.055, 288.130, 288.160, 288.170, and 288.250, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof seven new sections relating to employment, with penalty provisions.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

- Section A. Sections 285.309, 288.040, 288.055, 288.130, 288.160, 288.170, and 288.250, RSMo, are repealed and seven new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 285.309, 288.040, 288.055, 288.130, 288.160, 288.170, and 288.250, to read as follows: 285.309. 1. Every employer doing business in this state who employs five or more
- 2 employees shall, if applicable, submit federal 1099 miscellaneous forms to the department of revenue and the department of labor and industrial relations. Such forms shall be submitted to the department of revenue and the department of labor and industrial relations within the time lines established for the filing of Missouri form 99 forms.
 - 2. Any employer who intentionally, on five or more occasions, fails to submit information required under subsection 1 of this section shall be fined not more than two hundred dollars for each time the employer fails to submit the information on or after the fifth occurrence.
 - 288.040. 1. A claimant who is unemployed and has been determined to be an insured worker shall be eligible for benefits for any week only if the deputy finds that:
 - (1) The claimant has registered for work at and thereafter has continued to report at an employment office in accordance with such regulations as the division may prescribe;
- 5 (2) The claimant is able to work and is available for work. No person shall be deemed 6 available for work unless such person has been and is actively and earnestly seeking work. Upon 7 the filing of an initial or renewed claim, and prior to the filing of each weekly claim thereafter,

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

the deputy shall notify each claimant of the number of work search contacts required to constitute an active search for work. No person shall be considered not available for work, pursuant to this subdivision, solely because he or she is a substitute teacher or is on jury duty. A claimant shall not be determined to be ineligible pursuant to this subdivision because of not actively and earnestly seeking work if:

- (a) The claimant is participating in training approved pursuant to Section 236 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, (19 U.S.C.A. Sec. 2296, as amended);
- (b) The claimant is temporarily unemployed through no fault of his or her own and has a definite recall date within eight weeks of his or her first day of unemployment; however, upon application of the employer responsible for the claimant's unemployment, such eight-week period may be extended not to exceed a total of sixteen weeks at the discretion of the director;
- (3) The claimant has reported in person to an office of the division as directed by the deputy, but at least once every four weeks, except that a claimant shall be exempted from the reporting requirement of this subdivision if:
- (a) The claimant is claiming benefits in accordance with division regulations dealing with partial or temporary total unemployment; or
- (b) The claimant is temporarily unemployed through no fault of his or her own and has a definite recall date within eight weeks of his or her first day of unemployment; or
- (c) The claimant resides in a county with an unemployment rate, as published by the division, of ten percent or more and in which the county seat is more than forty miles from the nearest division office;
- (d) The director of the division of employment security has determined that the claimant belongs to a group or class of workers whose opportunities for reemployment will not be enhanced by reporting in person, or is prevented from reporting due to emergency conditions that limit access by the general public to an office that serves the area where the claimant resides, but only during the time such circumstances exist. Ineligibility pursuant to this subdivision shall begin on the first day of the week which the claimant was scheduled to claim and shall end on the last day of the week preceding the week during which the claimant does report in person to the division's office;
- (4) Prior to the first week of a period of total or partial unemployment for which the claimant claims benefits he or she has been totally or partially unemployed for a waiting period of one week. No more than one waiting week will be required in any benefit year. During calendar year 2008 and each calendar year thereafter, the one-week waiting period shall become compensable once his or her remaining balance on the claim is equal to or less than the compensable amount for the waiting period. No week shall be counted as a week of total or

partial unemployment for the purposes of this subsection unless it occurs within the benefit year which includes the week with respect to which the claimant claims benefits;

- (5) The claimant has made a claim for benefits within fourteen days from the last day of the week being claimed. The fourteen-day period may, for good cause, be extended to twenty-eight days;
- (6) The claimant has reported to an employment office to participate in a reemployment assessment and reemployment services as directed by the deputy or designated staff of an employment office, unless the deputy determines that good cause exists for the claimant's failure to participate in such reemployment assessment and reemployment services. For purposes of this section, "reemployment services" may include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - (a) Providing an orientation to employment office services;
 - (b) Providing job search assistance; and
- (c) Providing labor market statistics or analysis; Ineligibility under this subdivision shall begin on the first day of the week which the claimant was scheduled to report for the reemployment assessment or reemployment services and shall end on the last day of the week preceding the week during which the claimant does report in person to the employment office for such reemployment assessment or reemployment services;
- (7) The claimant is participating in reemployment services, such as job search assistance services, as directed by the deputy if the claimant has been determined to be likely to exhaust regular benefits and to need reemployment services pursuant to a profiling system established by the division, unless the deputy determines that:
 - (a) The individual has completed such reemployment services; or
- (b) There is justifiable cause for the claimant's failure to participate in such reemployment services.
- 2. A claimant shall be ineligible for waiting week credit or benefits for any week for which the deputy finds he or she is or has been suspended by his or her most recent employer for misconduct connected with his or her work. Suspensions of four weeks or more shall be treated as discharges.
- 3. (1) Benefits based on "service in employment", defined in subsections 7 and 8 of section 288.034, shall be payable in the same amount, on the same terms and subject to the same conditions as compensation payable on the basis of other service subject to this law; except that:
- (a) With respect to service performed in an instructional, research, or principal administrative capacity for an educational institution, benefits shall not be paid based on such services for any week of unemployment commencing during the period between two successive academic years or terms, or during a similar period between two regular but not successive terms, or during a period of paid sabbatical leave provided for in the individual's contract, to any

individual if such individual performs such services in the first of such academic years (or terms) and if there is a contract or a reasonable assurance that such individual will perform services in any such capacity for any educational institution in the second of such academic years or terms;

- (b) With respect to services performed in any capacity (other than instructional, research, or principal administrative capacity) for an educational institution, benefits shall not be paid on the basis of such services to any individual for any week which commences during a period between two successive academic years or terms if such individual performs such services in the first of such academic years or terms and there is a contract or a reasonable assurance that such individual will perform such services in the second of such academic years or terms;
- (c) With respect to services described in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subdivision, benefits shall not be paid on the basis of such services to any individual for any week which commences during an established and customary vacation period or holiday recess if such individual performed such services in the period immediately before such vacation period or holiday recess, and there is reasonable assurance that such individual will perform such services immediately following such vacation period or holiday recess;
- (d) With respect to services described in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subdivision, benefits payable on the basis of services in any such capacity shall be denied as specified in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this subdivision to any individual who performed such services at an educational institution while in the employ of an educational service agency, and for this purpose the term "educational service agency" means a governmental agency or governmental entity which is established and operated exclusively for the purpose of providing such services to one or more educational institutions.
- (2) If compensation is denied for any week pursuant to paragraph (b) or (d) of subdivision (1) of this subsection to any individual performing services at an educational institution in any capacity (other than instructional, research or principal administrative capacity), and such individual was not offered an opportunity to perform such services for the second of such academic years or terms, such individual shall be entitled to a retroactive payment of the compensation for each week for which the individual filed a timely claim for compensation and for which compensation was denied solely by reason of paragraph (b) or (d) of subdivision (1) of this subsection.
- 4. (1) A claimant shall be ineligible for waiting week credit, benefits or shared work benefits for any week for which he or she is receiving or has received remuneration exceeding his or her weekly benefit amount or shared work benefit amount in the form of:
- (a) Compensation for temporary partial disability pursuant to the workers' compensation law of any state or pursuant to a similar law of the United States;

- (b) A governmental or other pension, retirement or retired pay, annuity, or other similar periodic payment which is based on the previous work of such claimant to the extent that such payment is provided from funds provided by a base period or chargeable employer pursuant to a plan maintained or contributed to by such employer; but, except for such payments made pursuant to the Social Security Act or the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 (or the corresponding provisions of prior law), the provisions of this paragraph shall not apply if the services performed for such employer by the claimant after the beginning of the base period (or remuneration for such services) do not affect eligibility for or increase the amount of such pension, retirement or retired pay, annuity or similar payment.
- (2) If the remuneration referred to in this subsection is less than the benefits which would otherwise be due, the claimant shall be entitled to receive for such week, if otherwise eligible, benefits reduced by the amount of such remuneration, and, if such benefit is not a multiple of one dollar, such amount shall be lowered to the next multiple of one dollar.
- (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection, if a claimant has contributed in any way to the Social Security Act or the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974, or the corresponding provisions of prior law, no part of the payments received pursuant to such federal law shall be deductible from the amount of benefits received pursuant to this chapter.
- 5. A claimant shall be ineligible for waiting week credit or benefits for any week for which or a part of which he or she has received or is seeking unemployment benefits pursuant to an unemployment insurance law of another state or the United States; provided, that if it be finally determined that the claimant is not entitled to such unemployment benefits, such ineligibility shall not apply.
- 6. (1) A claimant shall be ineligible for waiting week credit or benefits for any week for which the deputy finds that such claimant's total or partial unemployment is due to a stoppage of work which exists because of a labor dispute in the factory, establishment or other premises in which such claimant is or was last employed. In the event the claimant secures other employment from which he or she is separated during the existence of the labor dispute, the claimant must have obtained bona fide employment as a permanent employee for at least the major part of each of two weeks in such subsequent employment to terminate his or her ineligibility. If, in any case, separate branches of work which are commonly conducted as separate businesses at separate premises are conducted in separate departments of the same premises, each such department shall for the purposes of this subsection be deemed to be a separate factory, establishment or other premises. This subsection shall not apply if it is shown to the satisfaction of the deputy that:

149 (a) The claimant is not participating in or financing or directly interested in the labor 150 dispute which caused the stoppage of work; and

- (b) The claimant does not belong to a grade or class of workers of which, immediately preceding the commencement of the stoppage, there were members employed at the premises at which the stoppage occurs, any of whom are participating in or financing or directly interested in the dispute.
- (2) "Stoppage of work" as used in this subsection means a substantial diminution of the activities, production or services at the establishment, plant, factory or premises of the employing unit. This definition shall not apply to a strike where the employees in the bargaining unit who initiated the strike are participating in the strike. Such employees shall not be eligible for waiting week credit or benefits during the period when the strike is in effect, regardless of diminution, unless the employer has been found guilty of an unfair labor practice by the National Labor Relations Board or a federal court of law for an act or actions preceding or during the strike.
- 7. On or after January 1, 1978, benefits shall not be paid to any individual on the basis of any services, substantially all of which consist of participating in sports or athletic events or training or preparing to so participate, for any week which commences during the period between two successive sport seasons (or similar periods) if such individual performed such services in the first of such seasons (or similar periods) and there is a reasonable assurance that such individual will perform such services in the later of such seasons (or similar periods).
- 8. Benefits shall not be payable on the basis of services performed by an alien, unless such alien is an individual who was lawfully admitted for permanent residence at the time such services were performed, was lawfully present for purposes of performing such services, or was permanently residing in the United States under color of law at the time such services were performed (including an alien who was lawfully present in the United States as a result of the application of the provisions of Section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act).
- (1) Any data or information required of individuals applying for benefits to determine whether benefits are not payable to them because of their alien status shall be uniformly required from all applicants for benefits.
- (2) In the case of an individual whose application for benefits would otherwise be approved, no determination that benefits to such individual are not payable because of such individual's alien status shall be made except upon a preponderance of the evidence.
- 9. A claimant shall be ineligible for waiting week credit or benefits for any week such claimant has an outstanding penalty which was assessed based upon an overpayment of benefits, as provided for in subsection 9 of section 288.380.
- 10. The directors of the division of employment security and the division of workforce development shall submit to the governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the

president pro tem of the senate no later than October 15, 2006, a report outlining their recommendations for how to improve work search verification and claimant reemployment activities. The recommendations shall include, but not limited to how to best utilize "greathires.org", and how to reduce the average duration of unemployment insurance claims. Each calendar year thereafter, the directors shall submit a report containing their recommendations on these issues by December thirty-first of each year.

- 288.055. 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, an unemployed claimant otherwise eligible for benefits shall not become ineligible for benefits because of his enrollment in and satisfactory pursuit of a retraining course of instruction which the director has approved for the individual.
- 2. An unemployed individual who files a claim for benefits may apply to the division for a determination of potential eligibility for benefits during a period of retraining or with respect to a claimant who has not applied for such determination, if the director finds the circumstances under subdivision (1) of subsection 3 of this section to exist, then the director shall make a complete determination under subsection 3 of this section, and where potential eligibility is determined, the director shall require the claimant to take a retraining course of instruction to be eligible for benefit payments.
- 3. A determination of potential eligibility for benefits under this section and chapter shall be issued to an unemployed claimant if the director finds that:
- (1) Reasonable employment opportunities for which the unemployed claimant is fitted by training and experience do not exist or have substantially diminished in the labor market area in this state in which he **or she** is claiming benefits;
- (2) The retraining course of instruction relates to an occupation or skill for which there are, or are expected to be in the immediate future, reasonable employment opportunities in any labor market area in this state in which the claimant agrees to seek work;
 - (3) The retraining course of instruction is one prescribed by the director;
- (4) The individual has the required qualifications and aptitudes to complete the course successfully and profit therefrom; and
- (5) Upon completion of his retraining course of instruction the individual should be qualified to use the skills acquired under labor organization rules where applicable to such skills.
- 4. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (2) of section 288.040, an unemployed claimant who is able to work is eligible to receive benefits under this section and chapter, with respect to any week during a period of retraining only if the director finds that:
- (1) He **or she** has been determined potentially eligible under subsection 3 of this section; and

(2) He **or she** submits [with each claim] **quarterly** a written certification executed by a responsible person connected with the retraining program certifying that he **or she** was enrolled in and satisfactorily pursuing the retraining course of instruction **during each week claimed in such calendar quarter.** The quarterly written certification shall be filed within ten days of the end of each calendar quarter.

- 5. If an individual fails to submit [for any week during a period of retraining] the certification required by subsection 4 of this section, he **or she** shall be ineligible to receive [any] benefits [for that] **during any** week **claimed in such calendar quarter. Further, the individual shall be ineligible to receive any further benefits under this section until such time as the certification required by subsection 4 of this section has been received by the division**. This subsection shall not render a claimant ineligible for benefits for any week during a period of retraining if on or before Monday of that week he **or she** notifies the division that his **or her** retraining course of instruction has been or is being discontinued or terminated prior to that week.
- 6. An unemployed claimant otherwise eligible for benefits under this section and chapter shall not be disqualified for refusing suitable employment offered to him **or her**, or failing to apply for suitable employment when notified by an employment office, or for leaving his most recent temporary work, accepted during his retraining, if the acceptance of or applying for suitable employment or continuing such work would require him **or her** to terminate his retraining course of instruction.
- 7. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, no payment of benefits shall be made to any individual for any week or part of any week with respect to which he **or she** is entitled to receive training benefits as a result of participation by this state pursuant to the provision of any federal law providing for the payment of such benefits unless required by such federal law.
- 8. Words and phrases used in this section have the meanings ascribed to them in this chapter.
- 9. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the director may determine upon application of a claimant who is unemployed due to a permanent mass layoff, that such claimant is eligible for training, and such claimant shall be eligible to receive benefits under this section and chapter if he **or she** meets the requirements of subdivision (2) of subsection 4 of this section and is otherwise eligible for benefits.
- 288.130. 1. Each employing unit shall keep true and accurate payroll and other related records, containing such information as the division may by regulation prescribe for a period of at least three calendar years after the record was made. Such records shall be open to inspection and be subject to being copied by authorized representatives of the division at any reasonable

time and as often as may be necessary. Any authorized person engaged in administering this law
may require from any employing unit any sworn or unsworn reports, with respect to individuals
performing services for it, which are deemed necessary for the effective administration of this
law.

- 2. All employers [required to report W-2 copy A information on magnetic media tape to the Social Security Administration pursuant to 26 CFR Section 301.6011-2, or successor regulations,] with fifty or more workers are [likewise] required to report quarterly wage information due pursuant to section 288.090 to the division [on magnetic tape or diskette in a format prescribed by the division] in an electronic format prescribed by the division.
- 3. Each employer shall post and maintain in places readily accessible to the employer's workers printed statements concerning benefit rights, claims for benefits and such other matters related to the administration of this law as the division may by regulation prescribe. Each employer shall supply to workers copies of any printed statements relating to claims for benefits when and as the division may by regulation prescribe. Such printed statements and other materials shall be supplied by the division without cost.
- 4. A deputy shall make an ex parte determination after investigation but without hearing with respect to any matter pertaining to the liability of an employing unit which does not involve a claimant. The deputy shall promptly notify any interested employing units of each such determination and the reason for it. The division shall grant a hearing before an appeals tribunal to any employing unit appealing from any such ex parte determination provided an appeal is filed in writing within thirty days following the date of notification or the mailing of such determination to the party's last known address. In the absence of an appeal any such determination shall become final at the expiration of a thirty-day period. The deputy may, however, at any time within a year from the date of the deputy's determination, for good cause, reconsider the determination and shall promptly notify all interested employing units of his amended determination and the reason for it.
- 5. The thirty-day period provided in subsection 4 of this section may, for good cause, be extended.

288.160. 1. If any employer neglects or refuses to make a report as required by this law the division shall make an estimate based on any information in its possession or that may come into its possession of the amount of wages paid by such employer for the period in respect to which the employer failed to make the report, and upon the basis of such estimated amount compute and assess the contributions and interest payable by such employer, adding to such sum a penalty as set forth in subsection 2 of this section. Promptly thereafter, the division shall give to such employer written notice of such estimated contributions, interest and penalties as so assessed, the notice to be served [personally or] by registered **or certified** mail, directed to the

 last known [principal place of business] **address** of such employer [in this state or in any state in the event the employer has none in this state].

- 2. If any employer neglects or refuses to file any required report by the last day of the month following the due date there shall be imposed a penalty, equal to the greater of one hundred dollars or ten percent of the contributions required to be shown on the report, for each month or fraction thereof during which such failure continues, provided, however, that the penalty shall not exceed the greater of two hundred dollars or twenty percent of the contributions in the aggregate.
- 3. In any case in which any contributions, interest or penalties imposed by this law are not paid when due, it shall be the duty of the division, when the amount of contributions, interest or penalties is determined, either by the report of the employer or by such investigation as the division may make, to assess the contributions, interest and penalties so determined against such employer and to certify the amount of such contributions, interest and penalties and give such employer written notice, served [personally or] by registered **or certified** mail, directed to the last known address of such employer [in this state or in any state, in the event the employer has none in this state].
- 4. If fraud or evasion on the part of any employer is discovered by the division, the division shall determine the amount by which the state has been defrauded, shall add to the amount so determined a penalty equal to twenty-five percent thereof, and shall assess the same against the employer. The amount so assessed shall be immediately due and payable; provided, however, that the division shall promptly thereafter give to such employer written notice of such assessment.
- 5. Any employer against whom an assessment is made pursuant to the provisions of subsections 1, 2, 3 and 4 of this section may petition for reassessment. The petition for such reassessment shall be filed with the division during the thirty-day period following the [day of service or] mailing of the notice of such assessment. In the absence of the filing of such a petition for reassessment the assessment shall become final upon the expiration of such a thirty-day period. Each such petition for reassessment shall set forth specifically and in detail the grounds upon which it is claimed the assessment is erroneous.
- 6. (1) In any case in which any contributions, interest or penalties imposed by law are not paid when due, the notice of the assessment of such contributions, interest and penalties shall be served upon or mailed to the employer within three years of the date upon which the payment of the contributions was due except that in any case of fraud or misrepresentation on the part of the employer, the notice of the assessment of the contributions, interest and penalties may be served [upon or mailed] by registered or certified mail to the last known address of such employer at any time.

45 (2) The giving of the notice of the making of the assessment shall toll any statute of limitations on the collection of any contributions, interest and penalties assessed.

- (3) In the event any employer is entitled to the advantage of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940, or any amendment thereto, prior to the date any assessment becomes final, such employer shall be permitted to file a petition for reassessment at any time within ninety days following such employer's discharge from the armed services.
- (4) The certificate of assessment which, pursuant to the provisions of section 288.170, may be filed with the clerk of the circuit court shall, upon such filing, thereafter be treated in all respects as a final judgment of the circuit court against the employer and the general statute of limitations applying to other judgments of courts of record shall apply.

288.170. 1. In any case in which any contributions, interest or penalties imposed under this law are not paid when due and the assessment of which has become final, the division may file for record in the office of the clerk of the circuit court in the county in which the employer owing said contributions, interest or penalties resides, or has his place of business, or any other county in which he has property, or all of them, a certificate specifying the amount of the contributions, interest and penalties due and the name of the employer liable for the same and it shall be the duty of the clerk of the circuit court to file such certificate of record and enter the same in the record of the circuit court for judgments and decrees under the procedure prescribed for filing transcripts of judgments. From the time of the filing of such certificate, the amount of the contributions, interest and penalties specified therein shall have the force and effect of a judgment of the circuit court until the same is satisfied by the division through its duly authorized agents. Execution shall be issuable at the request of the division, its agent or attorney as is provided in the case of other judgments. No exemption shall be allowed from the levy of an execution issued for such contributions, interest and penalties and no indemnifying bond shall be required by the sheriff before making levy.

2. If any employer defaults in the payment of contributions, interest, or penalties the amount due shall be collected by civil action in the name of the division. Such suit shall be brought in the county wherein the employer resides or has a place of business or agent for the transaction of business in this state or where he or it may be found, and the employer adjudged in default shall pay the cost of such action. Any civil action brought under this law shall be heard by the court at the earliest possible date and shall be entitled to preference on the calendar of the court over all other civil actions except petitions for judicial review under this law and cases arising under the workmen's compensation law of this state. If any employer shall fail to resort to the remedy herein provided for reassessment of any contributions, interest or penalties within the time as provided herein, such employer shall thereafter be precluded from asserting any defense in a direct suit for the collection of the contributions.

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3. In any case in which any assessment of contributions, interest, or penalties imposed under this law are not paid when due and the assessment of which has become final, the division may file for record in the recorder's office of any county in which the employer owing such contributions, interest, or penalties resides, owns property, or has a place of business a certificate of lien specifying the amount of the contributions, interest, or penalties due and the name of the employer liable for the same. It shall be the duty of the recorder to file such certificate of lien and enter the same in the record of the county. The lien shall arise on the date such assessment becomes final and shall be continuing and shall attach to real or personal property or interest in real or personal property owned by the employer or acquired in any manner by the employer after the filing of the certificate of lien. Unless sooner released or discharged, the lien shall expire ten years after the certificate of lien was filed, unless within such ten-year period the certificate of lien has been refiled by the division with the recorder. Unless sooner released or discharged, a timely refiled certificate of lien shall be treated as if filed on the date of filing of the original certificate of lien and shall expire ten years after the refiling. A certificate of lien shall not be refiled more than one time.

4. The foregoing remedies shall be cumulative and no action taken shall be construed as an election on the part of the state or any of its officers to pursue any remedy or action hereunder to the exclusion of any other remedy or action for which provision is made.

288.250. 1. Information obtained from any employing unit or individual pursuant to the administration of this law shall be held confidential and shall not be published, further disclosed, 3 or be open to public inspection in any manner revealing the individual's or employing unit's identity, but any claimant or employing unit or their authorized representative shall be supplied with information from the division's records to the extent necessary for the proper preparation 5 and presentation of any claim for unemployment compensation benefits or protest of employer liability. Further, upon receipt of a written request from a claimant or his or her authorized 8 representative, the division shall supply information previously submitted to the division by the claimant, the claimant's wage history and the claimant's benefit payment history. In addition, 10 upon receipt of a written request from an authorized representative of an employing unit, the division shall supply information previously submitted to the division by the employing unit, and 11 12 information concerning the payment of benefits from the employer's account and the unemployment compensation fund, including amounts paid to specific claimants. A state or 13 federal official or agency may receive disclosures to the extent [required by federal law] needed 14 15 to fulfill its official duties. In the division's discretion, any other party may receive disclosures to the extent authorized by state and federal law. Any information obtained by the division in 16

- the administration of this law shall be privileged and no individual or type of organization shall
- 18 be held liable for slander or libel on account of any such information.
- 2. Any person who intentionally discloses or otherwise fails to protect confidential
- 20 information in violation of this section shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor. For a second
- 21 or subsequent violation, the person shall be guilty of a class D felony.

