



ANDY BESHEAR
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Secretary of State
Frankfort
Kentucky

2025-280
May 7, 2025

STATE OF EMERGENCY
RELATING TO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMS AND BENEFITS

Beginning on April 2, 2025, and continuing, a severe weather system generating heavy rain, intense damaging winds, severe hail and tornadoes impacted the Commonwealth of Kentucky, creating dangerous conditions including flooding, flash flooding, mudslides and landslides, and causing damage to public infrastructure, utility distribution systems, and private properties.

State and local governments share responsibility for protection of public health, safety, and security as well as for the protection of public and private property and for taking appropriate actions to ensure the provision of essential public services.

The economic impacts of this powerful severe weather system are severe, including loss of jobs.

On April 2, 2025, I declared by Executive Order 2025-210 that a State of Emergency existed in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. On that same day, I signed Executive Order 2025-211 to declare a State of Emergency to implement the provisions of KRS 367.372, *et seq.*, to prohibit price gouging as to the sale of goods and services related to the April 2, 2025, and continuing, severe weather event, and I renewed implementation of those statutory provisions in Executive Order 2025-237 on April 17, 2025, effective April 18, 2025. On May 2, 2025, at the request of the chief executives of local governments, I extended the State of Emergency for 104 local jurisdictions through January 15, 2026, pursuant to KRS 39A.090(2)(b).

On April 3, 2025, President Donald J. Trump approved an Emergency Declaration for Kentucky, EM-3626-KY. On April 24, 2025, President Trump also approved a Major Disaster Area Declaration and Individual and Public Assistance, FEMA-DR-4864-KY for certain Kentucky counties. I have requested and will continue to request that Major Disaster Area Declaration FEMA-DR-4864-KY be amended to designate additional counties for assistance.

Current state law requires a claimant for unemployment insurance benefits to serve a waiting period of one (1) week, during which he or she has not received benefits, before being eligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits.

Section 303(a)(12) of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 503(a)(12), includes a requirement that as a condition of eligibility for regular compensation for any week a claimant must be able to work, available to work, and actively seeking work.

Section 301 of the Stafford Act permits the United States Department of Labor to waive upon request certain administrative conditions related to the disaster unemployment assistance program and regular unemployment compensation program.

NOW THEREFORE, I Andy Beshear, by virtue of authority vested in me pursuant to the Constitution of Kentucky and by KRS Chapter 39A, do hereby **ORDER** and **DIRECT** as follows:



ANDY BESHEAR
GOVERNOR

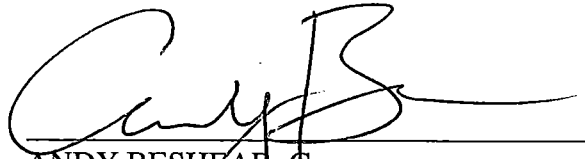
EXECUTIVE ORDER

Secretary of State
Frankfort
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2025-280
May 7, 2025

1. During the declared state of the emergency under Executive Order 2025-210, the able to work, available to work, and active work search requirements set forth in KRS 341.350(4) and (5) are hereby suspended as to any individual who is located or working in the Kentucky counties affected by the emergency conditions referenced in Executive Order 2025-210, the President's Major Disaster Area Declarations, EM-3626-KY, and FEMA-DR-4864-KY, including: Anderson, Butler, Carroll, Christian, Clark, Franklin, Hardin, Hopkins, Jessamine, McCracken, Mercer, Owen, and Woodford.
2. For those unemployed workers covered by Paragraph 1 of this Executive Order, the requirement that unemployed workers located or working in the affected counties serve a waiting period of seven (7) days, otherwise known as the "waiting week period," prior to becoming eligible for unemployment insurance benefits as set forth in KRS 341.350(2) is hereby suspended for such period. The affected counties include: Anderson, Butler, Carroll, Christian, Clark, Franklin, Hardin, Hopkins, Jessamine, McCracken, Mercer, Owen, and Woodford.

This Order is effective May 7, 2025.


ANDY BESHEAR, Governor
Commonwealth of Kentucky



MICHAEL G. ADAMS
Secretary of State

RECEIVED AND FILED

DATE

May 7, 2025

MICHAEL G. ADAMS

SECRETARY OF STATE

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

BY

Katherine Ellis



**RUSSELL COLEMAN
ATTORNEY GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF LAW**

EXECUTIVE ORDER

**2025-05
May 7, 2025**

Whereas, the Governor has issued Executive Order 2025-280, entitled “State of Emergency Relating to Unemployment Insurance Claims and Benefits,” which in relevant part suspends the operation of KRS 341.350(2), KRS 341.350(4), and KRS 341.350(5) for the duration of the declared state of emergency under Executive Order 2025-210;

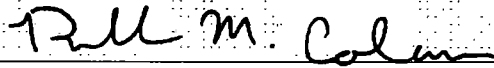
Whereas, KRS 39A.180(2)(b) provides that the Governor may suspend a statute by executive order when an emergency is declared if the statute to be suspended is specifically enumerated by the Governor in the executive order and the executive order specifying the suspension is approved by the Attorney General in writing;

Whereas, KRS 39A.090(2) provides that “executive orders, administrative regulations, or other directives issued under this chapter by the Governor” shall be in effect no longer than thirty (30) days unless otherwise approved by the General Assembly or requested by certain local government officials; and,

Whereas, I have reviewed Executive Order 2025-280 and find that the suspension of KRS 341.350(2), KRS 341.350(4), and KRS 341.350(5) as provided for therein is not an unreasonable exercise of the Governor's authority under KRS 39A.180(2)(b).

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me by KRS 39A.180(2)(b), I, Russell Coleman, Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, do hereby **APPROVE** the suspension of KRS 341.350(2), KRS 341.350(4), and KRS 341.350(5) as reflected in Executive Order 2025-280 for a period consistent with KRS 39A.090(2).

So **ORDERED** this the 7th day of May, 2025.



RUSSELL COLEMAN,
Attorney General
Commonwealth of Kentucky