

STATE OF VERMONT

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

ADDENDUM 13 TO EXECUTIVE ORDER 01-20

[Extended Expansion of Unemployment Benefits and Employer Contribution Relief]

WHEREAS, on Friday, March 13, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order 01-20, Declaration of State of Emergency (“Executive Order”), as amended and restated June 15, 2020 (“Amended and Restated Executive Order”), declaring a state of emergency for the State of Vermont in response to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Governor, in consultation with the Vermont Department of Health (VDH), Department of Public Safety/Division of Emergency Management (DPS), the Vermont Agency of Human Services (AHS) and the Agency of Education (AoE), initiated aggressive and sustained efforts to protect property and public health, and to ensure public safety in this public health emergency including issuing the Executive Order, as supplemented and amended, to, among other things, direct the Commissioner of the Department of Labor to extend unemployment insurance to those Vermonters following the instructions of their health care providers to self-isolate or quarantine; to remove the work search requirement for those workers affected by temporary closure of a businesses; to temporarily suspend any mechanisms that would delay the release of funds to claimants; and to relieve employers of charges for benefits paid to an individual for reasons related to COVID-19 for the duration of the Emergency Declaration; and

WHEREAS, in 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic rendered thousands of Vermonters jobless through no fault of their own, when they were laid off because their employers were forced to close their doors or severely restrict the services they could offer to the public; and

WHEREAS, other Vermonters were forced to leave employment to care for children or family members who could no longer attend school, day care, or other services or who were ill or under quarantine; and

WHEREAS, many Vermont employers lost significant income or revenue because they were limited in their capacity to serve the general public or open their doors in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, in 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 91 (the “Act”), Section 30, the General Assembly reiterated the Governor’s policies of ensuring unemployment insurance for those Vermonters who temporarily or permanently lost their jobs due to COVID-19, and relief for employers from charges for benefits paid to an individual for circumstances related to COVID-19, however the Act did not fully contemplate the duration of the pandemic or the severity of its economic consequences; and

WHEREAS, the Act’s COVID-19 emergency provisions expire March 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Act conferred on the Commissioner of Labor the authority to extend benefit charge relief to employers as appropriate in light of the terms of any emergency order issued by the Governor and any other relevant conditions or factors.

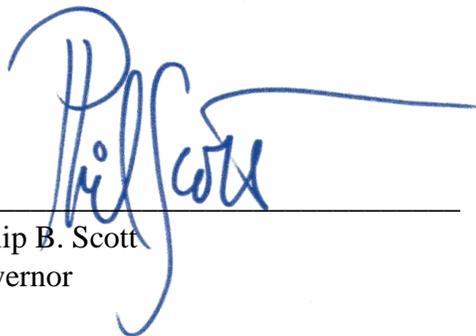
NOW THEREFORE, I, Philip B. Scott, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of Vermont by the Constitution of the State of Vermont, the emergency powers set forth in 20 V.S.A. §§ 8, 9 and 11, 21 V.S.A. § 1325(a)(3)(C) and other laws, do hereby order and direct the Commissioner of Labor to extend unemployment benefits and benefit charge relief as follows:

- 1) Effective March 31, 2021, the emergency provisions of 21 V.S.A. §§ 1325(a)(1)(G),(H) and 21 V.S.A. § 1325(a)(3), shall be extended to provide unemployment benefit charge relief to employers for employees who separate from employment for a COVID-19 qualifying reason, as appropriate in light of the terms of this Order and any other relevant conditions or factors.
- 2) Effective March 31, 2021, the emergency provisions of 21 V.S.A. § 1344(a)(2)(A), shall be extended to provide unemployment benefits to individuals who are forced to leave their employment for a COVID-19 qualifying reason.

This Addendum 13 to the Amended and Restated Executive Order shall take effect upon execution and shall continue in full force and effect until midnight on April 15, 2021, at which time the Governor, in consultation with the Vermont Department of Health and the Department of Public Safety shall assess the emergency and determine whether to amend or extend the Executive Order.



By the Governor:


Philip B. Scott
Governor


Brittney L. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs

Addendum 13 to Amended and Restated Executive Order No. 01-20

April 1, 2021