

1 The Executive Committee shall consult with the Governor to provide
2 recommendations concerning the issuance of Executive Orders by the Governor, as requested.
3 The Department of Administration shall provide lead support assistance to the Response Team
4 as requested by the Executive Committee.

5 **SECTION 2.** High unemployment trigger/action. – The Chief Deputy
6 Commissioner of the Employment Security Commission shall monitor continually the
7 unemployment rates throughout the State and shall notify the other members of the Executive
8 Committee whenever a local area unemployment statistic for a county (based on unadjusted
9 data) exceeds fifteen and five-tenths percent (15.5%) for two consecutive months so that the
10 Response Team may be activated immediately.

11 At the direction of the Executive Committee, the Response Team shall take all
12 coordinated actions within the power of the respective participating State entities necessary to:

- 13 (1) Alleviate the extraordinary burden of high unemployment by simplifying
14 and expediting, to the fullest extent allowed by law, applications for
15 unemployment compensation, public assistance, and other needed services.
- 16 (2) Intensify economic development and job creation activities in the county and
17 the surrounding area.
- 18 (3) Educate the citizens of the county about available retraining and educational
19 opportunities in the region and simplify access to those resources.
- 20 (4) Obtain the assistance of available federal government resources for the
21 benefit of the affected citizens of the county.
- 22 (5) Open additional, temporary offices of the participating entities in the county,
23 as needed.
- 24 (6) Offer additional education and training opportunities in the county, as
25 appropriate.
- 26 (7) Provide assistance to local law enforcement and crime prevention agencies
27 as requested by those local agencies having jurisdiction.
- 28 (8) Provide assistance to municipal and county governments, as appropriate.
- 29 (9) Engage in any other lawful activity that lessens the adverse effect of, or
30 enhances the State's response to, a high unemployment emergency.

31 **SECTION 3.** Suspending the response. – When local area unemployment statistic
32 for the county (based on unadjusted data) drops to or below fifteen and five-tenths percent
33 (15.5%), and remains at or below that level for three consecutive months, then the Response
34 Team shall suspend its response in the county unless the Executive Committee determines, with
35 the approval of the Governor, that a continued post-emergency response is warranted. In that
36 case, the Executive Committee may continue with an appropriate post-emergency response in
37 that county for up to six months.

38 **SECTION 4.** Reporting. – Beginning January 1, 2010, and annually thereafter, the
39 Executive Committee shall report to the Governor and to the General Assembly on Response
40 Team actions during the previous year and may recommend legislative proposals related to
41 State and local government responses to high unemployment emergencies.

42 **SECTION 5.** Effective date. – This act is effective when it becomes law.