

2023 Kansas Statutes

44-714. Administration of act; powers and duties of secretary; employees, agents and contractors; reports and records, confidentiality; disclosure of information; witnesses, oaths and subpoenas; state-federal cooperation; fees for document copies. (a) Duties and powers of secretary. It shall be the duty of the secretary to administer this act and the secretary shall have power and authority to adopt, amend or revoke such rules and regulations, to employ such persons, make such expenditures, require such reports, make such investigations, and take such other action as the secretary deems necessary or suitable to that end. Such rules and regulations may be adopted, amended, or revoked by the secretary only after public hearing or opportunity to be heard thereon. The secretary shall determine the organization and methods of procedure in accordance with the provisions of this act, and shall have an official seal which shall be judicially noticed. The secretary shall make and submit reports for the administration of the employment security law in the manner prescribed by K.S.A. 75-3044 through 75-3046, and 75-3048, and amendments thereto. Whenever the secretary believes that a change in contribution or benefit rates will become necessary to protect the solvency of the fund, the secretary shall promptly so inform the governor and the legislature, and make recommendations with respect thereto.

(b) Publication. The secretary shall cause to be printed for distribution to the public the text of this act, the secretary's rules and regulations and any other material the secretary deems relevant and suitable and shall furnish the same to any person upon application therefor.

(c) Personnel. Subject to other provisions of this act, the secretary is authorized to appoint, fix the compensation, and prescribe the duties and powers of such officers, accountants, deputies, attorneys, experts and other persons as may be necessary in carrying out the provisions of this act. The secretary may delegate to any such person so appointed such power and authority as the secretary deems reasonable and proper for the effective administration of this act, and may in the secretary's discretion bond any person handling moneys or signing checks under the employment security law.

(d) Employment stabilization. The secretary, with the advice and aid of the appropriate divisions of the department of labor, shall: (1) Take all appropriate steps to reduce and prevent unemployment; (2) encourage and assist in the adoption of practical methods of vocational training, retraining and vocational guidance; (3) investigate, recommend, advise, and assist in the establishment and operation, by municipalities, counties, school districts and the state, of reserves for public works to be used in time of business depression and unemployment; (4) promote the reemployment of unemployed workers throughout the state in every other way that may be feasible; and (5) to these ends carry on and publish the results of investigations and research studies.

(e) Records and reports. Each employing unit shall keep true and accurate work records, containing such information as the secretary may prescribe. Such records shall be open to inspection and subject to being copied by the secretary or the secretary's authorized representatives at any reasonable time and shall be preserved for a period of five years from the due date of the contributions or payments in lieu of contributions for the period to which they relate. Only one audit shall be made of any employer's records for any given period of time. Upon request the employing unit shall be furnished a copy of all findings by the secretary or the secretary's authorized representatives, resulting from such audit. A special inquiry or special examination made for a specific and limited purpose shall not be considered to be an audit for the purpose of this subsection. The secretary may require from any employing unit any sworn or unsworn reports, with respect to persons employed by it, which the secretary deems necessary for the effective administration of this act. Information thus obtained or obtained from any individual pursuant to the administration of this act shall be held confidential, except to the extent necessary for the proper presentation of a claim by an employer or employee under the employment security law, and shall not be published or be open to public inspection, other than to public officials or the agents or contractors of a public official in the performance of their official duties, in any manner revealing the individual's or employing unit's identity.

The secretary may publish or otherwise disclose appeals records and decisions, and precedential determinations on coverage of employers, employment and wages, provided all social security numbers have been removed. Any claimant or employing unit or their representatives at a hearing before an appeal tribunal or the secretary shall be supplied with information from such records to the extent necessary for the proper presentation of the claim. The transcript made at any such benefits hearing shall not be discoverable or admissible in evidence in any other proceeding, hearing or determination of any kind or nature. In the event of any appeal of a benefits matter, the transcript shall be sealed by the hearing officer and shall be available only to any reviewing authority who shall reseal the transcript after making a review of it. In no event shall such transcript be deemed a public record. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit disclosure of any information obtained under the employment security law, including hearing transcripts, upon request of either of the parties, for the purpose of administering or adjudicating a claim for benefits under the provisions of any other state program, except that any party receiving such information shall be prohibited from further disclosure and shall be subject to the same duty of confidentiality otherwise imposed by this subsection and shall be subject to the penalties imposed by this subsection for violations of such duty of confidentiality. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit disclosure of any information obtained under the employment security law, including hearing transcripts, for use as evidence in a criminal investigation or in open court in a criminal prosecution or at an appeal hearing under the employment security law. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit disclosure of any information obtained under the employment security law, including hearing transcripts to an agent or contractor of a public official to whom disclosure is permissible under the employment security law, except that any party receiving such information shall be prohibited from further disclosure, except for use in the performance of such party's official duties, and shall be subject to the same duty of confidentiality otherwise imposed by this subsection and shall be subject to the penalties imposed by this subsection for violations of such duty of confidentiality. Any individual who violates any provisions of this subsection, shall be fined not less than \$20 nor more than \$200 or imprisoned for not longer than 90 days, or both. Original records of the agency and original paid benefit warrants of the state treasurer may be made available to the employment security agency of any other state or the federal government to be used as evidence in prosecution of violations of the employment security law of such state or federal government. Photostatic copies of such records shall be made and where possible shall be substituted for original records introduced in evidence and the originals returned to the agency. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit disclosure otherwise permissible under 20 C.F.R. part 603.5.

(f) Oaths and witnesses. In the discharge of the duties imposed by the employment security law, the chairperson of an appeal tribunal, an appeals referee, the secretary or any duly authorized representative of the secretary shall have power to administer oaths and affirmations, take depositions, issue interrogatories, certify to official acts, and issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, papers, correspondence, memoranda and other records deemed necessary as evidence in connection with a disputed claim or the administration of the employment security law.

(g) Subpoenas, service. Upon request, service of subpoenas shall be made by the sheriff of a county within that county, by the sheriff's deputy, by any other person who is not a party and is not less than 18 years of age or by some person specially appointed for that purpose by the secretary of labor or the secretary's designee. A person not a party as described above or a person specially appointed by the secretary or the secretary's designee to serve subpoenas may make service any place in the state. The subpoena shall be served as follows:

(1) Individual. Service upon an individual, other than a minor or incapacitated person, shall be made: (A) By delivering a copy of the subpoena to the individual personally; (B) by leaving a copy at such individual's dwelling house or usual place of abode with some person of suitable age and discretion then residing therein; (C) by leaving a copy at the business establishment of the employer with an officer or employee of the establishment; (D) by delivering a copy to an agent authorized by

appointment or by law to receive service of process, but if the agent is one designated by a statute to receive service, such further notice as the statute requires shall be given; or (E) if service as prescribed above in subparagraphs (A), (B), (C) or (D) cannot be made with due diligence, by leaving a copy of the subpoena at the individual's dwelling house, usual place of abode or usual business establishment, and by mailing a notice by first-class mail to the place that the copy has been left.

(2) Corporations and partnerships. Service upon a domestic or foreign corporation or upon a partnership or other unincorporated association, when by law it may be sued as such, shall be made by delivering a copy of the subpoena to an officer, partner or resident managing or general agent thereof, or by leaving the copy at any business office of the employer with the person having charge thereof or by delivering a copy to any other agent authorized by appointment or required by law to receive service of process, if the agent is one authorized by law to receive service and, if the law so requires, by also mailing a copy to the employer.

(3) Refusal to accept service. In all cases when the person to be served, or an agent authorized by such person to accept service of petitions and summonses shall refuse to receive copies of the subpoena, the offer of the duly authorized process server to deliver copies thereof and such refusal shall be sufficient service of such subpoena.

(4) Proof of service. (A) Every officer to whom a subpoena or other process shall be delivered for service within or without the state, shall make return thereof in writing stating the time, place and manner of service of such writ and shall sign such officer's name to such return.

(B) If service of the subpoena is made by a person appointed by the secretary or the secretary's designee to make service, or any other person described in subsection (g), such person shall make an affidavit as to the time, place and manner of service thereof in a form prescribed by the secretary or the secretary's designee.

(5) Time for return. The officer or other person receiving a subpoena shall make a return of service promptly and shall send such return to the secretary or the secretary's designee in any event within 10 days after the service is effected. If the subpoena cannot be served it shall be returned to the secretary or the secretary's designee within 30 days after the date of issue with a statement of the reason for the failure to serve the same.

(h) Subpoenas, enforcement. In case of contumacy by or refusal to obey a subpoena issued to any person, any court of this state within the jurisdiction of which the inquiry is carried on or within the jurisdiction of which such person guilty of contumacy or refusal to obey is found, resides or transacts business, upon application by the secretary or the secretary's duly authorized representative, shall have jurisdiction to issue to such person an order requiring such person to appear before the secretary, or the secretary's duly authorized representative, to produce evidence, if so ordered, or to give testimony relating to the matter under investigation or in question. Failure to obey such order of the court may be punished by the court as a contempt thereof. Any person who, without just cause, shall fail or refuse to attend and testify or to answer any lawful inquiry or to produce books, papers, correspondence, memoranda or other records in obedience to the subpoena of the secretary or the secretary's duly authorized representative shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$200 or by imprisonment of not longer than 60 days, or both, and each day such violation continued shall be deemed to be a separate offense.

(i) State-federal cooperation. In the administration of this act, the secretary shall cooperate to the fullest extent consistent with the provisions of this act, with the federal security agency, shall make such reports, in such form and containing such information as the federal security administrator may from time to time require, and shall comply with such provisions as the federal security administrator may from time to time find necessary to assure the correctness and verification of such reports; and shall comply with the regulations prescribed by the federal security agency governing the expenditures of such sums as may be allotted and paid to this state under title III of the social security act for the purpose of assisting in the administration of this act. Upon request therefor the secretary shall furnish to any agency of the United States charged with the administration of public works or assistance through public employment, the name, address, ordinary occupation, and employment status of each recipient of benefits and such recipient's rights to further benefits under this act.

(j) Reciprocal arrangements. The secretary shall participate in making reciprocal arrangements with appropriate and duly authorized agencies of other states or of the federal government, or both, whereby:

(1) Services performed by an individual for a single employing unit for which services are customarily performed in more than one state shall be deemed to be services performed entirely within any one of the states: (A) In which any part of such individual's service is performed; (B) in which such individual maintains residence; or (C) in which the employing unit maintains a place of business, provided there is in effect as to such services, an election, approved by the agency charged with the administration of such state's unemployment compensation law, pursuant to which all the services performed by such individual for such employing units are deemed to be performed entirely within such state;

(2) service performed by not more than three individuals, on any portion of a day but not necessarily simultaneously, for a single employing unit which customarily operates in more than one state shall be deemed to be service performed entirely within the state in which such employing unit maintains the headquarters of its business; provided that there is in effect, as to such service, an approved election by an employing unit with the affirmative consent of each such individual, pursuant to which service performed by such individual for such employing unit is deemed to be performed entirely within such state;

(3) potential rights to benefits accumulated under the employment compensation laws of one or more states or under one or more such laws of the federal government, or both, may constitute the basis for the payments of benefits through a single appropriate agency under terms which the secretary finds will be fair and reasonable as to all affected interests and will not result in any substantial loss to the fund;

(4) wages or services, upon the basis of which an individual may become entitled to benefits under an unemployment compensation law of another state or of the federal government, shall be deemed to be wages for insured work for the purpose of determining such individual's rights to benefits under this act, and wages for insured work, on the basis of which an individual may become entitled to benefits under this act, shall be deemed to be wages or services on the basis of which unemployment compensation under such law of another state or of the federal government is payable, but no such arrangement shall be entered into unless it contains provisions for reimbursements to the fund for such of the benefits paid under this act upon the basis of such wages or services, and provisions for reimbursements from the fund for such of the compensation paid under such other law upon the basis of wages for insured work, as the secretary finds will be fair and reasonable as to all affected interests; and

(5) (A) contributions due under this act with respect to wages for insured work shall be deemed for the purposes of K.S.A. 44-717, and amendments thereto, to have been paid to the fund as of the date payment was made as contributions therefor under another state or federal unemployment compensation law, but no such arrangement shall be entered into unless it contains provisions for such reimbursements to the fund of such contributions and the actual earnings thereon as the secretary finds will be fair and reasonable as to all affected interests;

(B) reimbursements paid from the fund pursuant to subsection (j)(4) shall be deemed to be benefits for the purpose of K.S.A. 44-704 and 44-712, and amendments thereto; the secretary is authorized to make to other state or federal agencies, and to receive from such other state or federal agencies, reimbursements from or to the fund, in accordance with arrangements entered into pursuant to the provisions of this section or any other section of the employment security law;

(C) the administration of this act and of other state and federal unemployment compensation and public employment service laws will be promoted by cooperation between this state and such other states and the appropriate federal agencies in exchanging services and in making available facilities and information; the secretary is therefore authorized to make such investigations, secure and transmit such information, make available such services and facilities and exercise such of the other powers provided herein with respect to the administration of this act as the secretary deems necessary or appropriate to facilitate the administration of any such unemployment compensation or public employment service law and, in like manner,

to accept and utilize information, service and facilities made available to this state by the agency charged with the administration of any such other unemployment compensation or public employment service law; and

(D) to the extent permissible under the laws and constitution of the United States, the secretary is authorized to enter into or cooperate in arrangements whereby facilities and services provided under this act and facilities and services provided under the unemployment compensation law of any foreign government may be utilized for the taking of claims and the payment of benefits under the employment security law of this state or under a similar law of such government.

(k) Records available. The secretary may furnish the railroad retirement board, at the expense of such board, such copies of the records as the railroad retirement board deems necessary for its purposes.

(l) Destruction of records, reproduction and disposition. The secretary may provide for the destruction, reproduction, temporary or permanent retention, and disposition of records, reports and claims in the secretary's possession pursuant to the administration of the employment security law provided that prior to any destruction of such records, reports or claims the secretary shall comply with K.S.A. 75-3501 through 75-3514, and amendments thereto.

(m) Federal cooperation. The secretary may afford reasonable cooperation with every agency of the United States charged with administration of any unemployment insurance law.

(n) The secretary is hereby authorized to fix, charge and collect fees for copies made of public documents, as defined by K.S.A. 45-217(c), and amendments thereto, by xerographic, thermographic or other photocopying or reproduction process, in order to recover all or part of the actual costs incurred, including any costs incurred in certifying such copies. All moneys received from fees charged for copies of such documents shall be remitted to the state treasurer in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 75-4215, and amendments thereto. Upon receipt of each such remittance, the state treasurer shall deposit the entire amount in the state treasury to the credit of the employment security administration fund. No such fees shall be charged or collected for copies of documents that are made pursuant to a statute which requires such copies to be furnished without expense.

(o) "Performance of official duties" means the administration or enforcement of law or the execution of the official responsibilities of a federal, state or local official, collection of debts owed to the courts or the enforcement of child support on behalf of a state or local official. Administration of law includes research related to the law administered by the public official. "Performance of official duties" does not include solicitation of contributions or expenditures to or on behalf of a candidate for public or political office or a political party.

History: L. 1937, ch. 255, § 14; L. 1939, ch. 214, § 5; L. 1941, ch. 264, § 11; L. 1943, ch. 190, § 6; L. 1945, ch. 220, § 11; L. 1947, ch. 291, § 7; L. 1949, ch. 288, § 9; L. 1951, ch. 307, § 6; L. 1965, ch. 506, § 24; L. 1965, ch. 322, § 1; L. 1973, ch. 205, § 10; L. 1974, ch. 348, § 16; L. 1975, ch. 416, § 4; L. 1976, ch. 370, § 69; L. 1979, ch. 159, § 6; L. 1983, ch. 169, § 7; L. 1986, ch. 191, § 4; L. 1987, ch. 191, § 8; L. 1990, ch. 122, § 17; L. 1991, ch. 145, § 2; L. 1996, ch. 232, § 4; L. 2001, ch. 5, § 142; L. 2004, ch. 179, § 65; L. 2013, ch. 106, § 10; L. 2014, ch. 9, § 2; L. 2015, ch. 57, § 6; L. 2017, ch. 79, § 1; L. 2021, ch. 92, § 19; May 13.