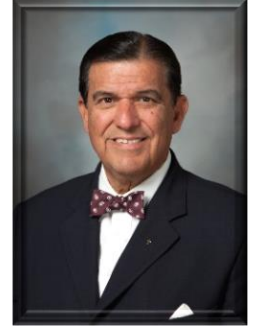




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Senator Lucio Statement on Suspension of "Work-Search" Requirement and Other Regulations
Amid alarming rise of COVID-19 cases the Texas Workforce Commission suspends federal law requirement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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AUSTIN, TX – Today, Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D-Brownsville) issued the following statement regarding the Texas Workforce Commission's recent suspension of the state's adherence to the federal law "work-search" requirement for unemployment benefits.

"I publicly thank the Texas Workforce Commission for recognizing the insurmountable challenges displaced workers are facing amid the alarmingly expanding COVID-19 pandemic which has disproportionately hurt local economies along the border," said Senator Lucio. The Rio Grande Valley Senator was referencing labor unemployment findings reported by the Texas Tribune on June 25 which showed that the Rio Grande Valley "region's unemployment rate in May was 17.1%, well above the statewide rate of 13%."

Sen. Lucio went on to say, **"The pandemic has devastated our border economies, which are dependent on international trade and commerce. Regrettably, these most perilous times have created overwhelming odds for our Valley constituents who are trying to find employment. That is why I publicly thank the Workforce Commission in providing greatly needed relief to our unemployed constituents and their families."**

"As the pandemic worsens and takes a stronger grip of our local economies, I respectfully request the Commission to continue to work with the Governor's Office and scrub state and federal regulations to see which ones can be waived during the State of Disaster declared by Governor Abbott in response to the devastating COVID-19 pandemic," said Sen. Lucio.

The Valley Senator concluded by saying, **"As the Commission strives to meet its statutory mandate to 'meet the needs of... the workers of this state...and for an efficient unemployment system', Texas families would be greatly served by receiving compassionate relief from regulations that are completely unnecessary during our current state of emergency."**

Sen. Lucio was referencing the Texas Workforce Commission's enabling statute, Chapter 301 of the Texas Labor Code, which provides the Commission's statutory purpose and goals.

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Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D – Brownsville) represents Cameron, Hidalgo, Kenedy, Kleberg, and Willacy Counties. He is the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Intergovernmental Relations; Vice Chairman of the Senate Committee on Education; Member of the Senate Committees on State Affairs; Veteran Affairs & Border Security; and of the Select Committees on Redistricting; and, Texas Ports. He is member of the Sunset Advisory Commission and has been an ex-officio member of the DSHS Task Force of Border Public Health Officials since 2017. Elected in 1991, Lucio is third in seniority in the Texas Senate.