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Factsheet for case **DK-2020-11/660**

Three months suspension of eligibility criteria for long-term unemployment benefitholders

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Country	Denmark, applies nationwide
Time period	Temporary, 09 March 2020 - 09 June 2020
Type	Legislation or other statutory regulation
Category	Income protection beyond short-time work – Extensions of income support to workers not covered by any kind of protection scheme
Case created	16 April 2020 (updated 02 May 2020)

Background information

With the different initiatives to support wage earners and self-employed, now follows an initiative from the government to support unemployed people - and in this case - receiving social security protection because the person is no longer eligible for an unemployment benefit. A so-called 225 hours rule in force requires that the unemployed needs to have had 225 hours of employment the last 12 months in order to continuously receiving a cash benefit. This rule the government and the Parliament has suspended on the background that finding a new job is impossible in the current situation.

Legal reference: LFF 2020-04-14 nr 169

Content of measure

To be able to fulfill the demand of 225 hours work within the last 12 months with the aim to keep the cash benefit requires an active search for jobs. Finding new jobs has become a significantly difficult task. The COVID-19 has send thousands of employees home with a wage compensation waiting for reopening of the labour market. However, this has not avoided a drastic increase in unemployment due to bankruptcies or close downs of parts of a company. On this background, the government and the Parliament on 06.04.2020 decided to put the 225 hours rule on hold with effect from 09.03.2020 and three months forward. This means that the unemployed person receiving social security benefits in this period will receive the cash benefit without documenting 225 hours of employment in the last 12 months nor without having continuously to

search for jobs.

A person of 30 years of age with children receives DKK 15.355 a month (1 January 2020)

Persons under 30 years without children receives DKK 11.554 a month

Singles under 30 years with children receives DKK 14.677 a month

Use of measure

It is too early to estimate the number of beneficiaries that falls under this specific rule.

Actors, target groups and funding

Actors	Target groups	Funding
National government	Unemployed	National funds

Social partners

Role of social partners	No involvement
Form of involvement	No involvement

The social partners have expressed agreement with this support measure for unemployed receiving a cash benefit.

Sectors and occupations

This case is not sector-specific.

This case is not occupation-specific.

Sources

- 06 April 2020: Bredt flertal sætter timekrav for folk på kontanthjælp på pause ([bm.dk](https://www.bm.dk))