

EMPLOYMENT APPEALS BOARD DECISION
2024-EAB-0465

Reversed & Remanded

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On February 9, 2024, the Oregon Employment Department (the Department) served notice of an administrative decision concluding that claimant voluntarily quit work without good cause and was therefore disqualified from receiving unemployment insurance benefits effective October 1, 2023 (decision # 130100). On February 29, 2024, decision # 130100 became final without claimant having filed a request for hearing. On April 10, 2024, claimant filed a late request for hearing. ALJ Kangas considered the request, and on May 13, 2024 issued Order No. 24-UI-254014, dismissing the request as late, subject to claimant's right to renew the request by responding to an appellant questionnaire by May 27, 2024. On May 28, 2024, claimant filed a late response to the appellant questionnaire and a timely application for review with the Employment Appeals Board (EAB).

EVIDENTIARY MATTER: EAB has considered additional evidence when reaching this decision under OAR 471-041-0090(1) (May 13, 2019). The additional evidence is claimant's appellant questionnaire response and has been marked as EAB Exhibit 1, and a copy provided to the parties with this decision. Any party that objects to our admitting EAB Exhibit 1 must submit such objection to this office in writing, setting forth the basis of the objection in writing, within ten days of our mailing this decision. OAR 471-041-0090(2). Unless such objection is received and sustained, the exhibit will remain in the record.

FINDING OF FACT: (1) Decision # 130100, mailed to claimant's address of record on file with the Department on February 9, 2024, stated, "You have the right to appeal this decision if you do not believe it is correct. Your request for appeal must be received no later than February 29, 2024." Exhibit 1 at 2.

CONCLUSIONS AND REASONS: Order No. 24-UI-254014 is set aside and the matter remanded for a hearing to determine whether claimant's late request for hearing should be allowed and, if so, the merits of decision # 130100.

ORS 657.269 provides that the Department's decisions become final unless a party files a request for hearing within 20 days after the date the decision is mailed. ORS 657.875 provides that the 20-day deadline may be extended a "reasonable time" upon a showing of "good cause." OAR 471-040-0010

(February 10, 2012) provides that “good cause” includes factors beyond an applicant’s reasonable control or an excusable mistake, and defines “reasonable time” as seven days after those factors ceased to exist.

The request for hearing on decision # 130100 was due by February 29, 2024. Claimant filed their request for hearing on April 10, 2024, and it was therefore filed late. However, claimant’s appellant questionnaire response suggests that claimant may have good cause for the late filing, and further development of the record is therefore warranted.

Claimant wrote in their appellant questionnaire response that they received decision # 130100 prior to the timely filing deadline. EAB Exhibit 1 at 1. Claimant asserted that they filed a timely appeal of that decision, explaining that they “specifically stated to [a Department representative] I was requesting a hearing via email on February 29, 2024 because I had no other way to submit it.” EAB Exhibit 1 at 2. It is therefore possible that a timely request for hearing was filed. In the alternative, if an unsuccessful attempt to timely file a request for hearing delayed actual filing of the request to April 10, 2024, this may have been due to a factor beyond claimant’s reasonable control or an excusable mistake that could support good cause to allow a late appeal.

On remand, inquiry should be made into the dates and contents of email communications between claimant and the Department or Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) from the date decision # 130100 was issued through April 10, 2024, as well as whether any of claimant’s emails¹ could be construed as a timely request for hearing, whether claimant had reason to believe that a request for hearing had been timely filed though such a request was not actually filed, and whether any other circumstances that prevented timely filing constituted a factor beyond claimant’s reasonable control or an excusable mistake. Further, if good cause is found to extend the deadline for timely filing, additional inquiry should be made into when the factors that prevented timely filing ceased and whether the late request for hearing was filed within a seven-day “reasonable time” after the factors ceased.

For these reasons, Order No. 24-UI-254014 is set aside and the matter remanded for a hearing to determine whether claimant’s late request for hearing should be allowed and, if so, the merits of decision # 130100.

DECISION: Order No. 24-UI-254014 is set aside, and this matter remanded for further proceedings consistent with this order.

D. Hettle and A. Steger-Bentz;
S. Serres, not participating.

DATE of Service: July 3, 2024

NOTE: The failure of any party to appear at the hearing on remand will not reinstate Order No. 24-UI-254014 or return this matter to EAB. Only a timely application for review of the subsequent order will cause this matter to return to EAB.

¹ The email in which claimant timely requested a hearing, according to claimant’s appellant questionnaire response, may itself be considered on remand if offered by a party as evidence in accordance with the instructions contained in the notice of the remand hearing. The parties may also offer any other relevant evidence in accordance with those instructions.

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Understanding Your Employment Appeals Board Decision

English

Attention – This decision affects your unemployment benefits. If you do not understand this decision, contact the Employment Appeals Board immediately. If you do not agree with this decision, you may file a Petition for Judicial Review with the Oregon Court of Appeals following the instructions written at the end of the decision.

Simplified Chinese

注意 – 本判決會影響您的失業救濟金。如果您不明白本判決，請立即聯繫就業上訴委員會。如果您不同意此判決，您可以按照該判決結尾所寫的說明，向俄勒岡州上訴法院提出司法複審申請。

Traditional Chinese

注意 – 本判決會影響您的失業救濟金。如果您不明白本判決，請立即聯繫就業上訴委員會。如果您不同意此判決，您可以按照該判決結尾所寫的說明，向俄勒岡州上訴法院提出司法複審申請。

Tagalog

Paalala – Nakakaapekto ang desisyong ito sa iyong mga benepisyo sa pagkawala ng trabaho. Kung hindi mo naiintindihan ang desisyong ito, makipag-ugnayan kaagad sa Lupon ng mga Apela sa Trabaho (Employment Appeals Board). Kung hindi ka sumasang-ayon sa desisyong ito, maaari kang maghain ng isang Petisyon sa Pagsusuri ng Hukuman (Petition for Judicial Review) sa Hukuman sa Paghahabol (Court of Appeals) ng Oregon na sinusunod ang mga tagubilin na nakasulat sa dulo ng desisyon.

Vietnamese

Chú ý - Quyết định này ảnh hưởng đến trợ cấp thất nghiệp của quý vị. Nếu quý vị không hiểu quyết định này, hãy liên lạc với Ban Kháng Cáo Việc Làm ngay lập tức. Nếu quý vị không đồng ý với quyết định này, quý vị có thể nộp Đơn Xin Tái Xét Tư Pháp với Tòa Kháng Cáo Oregon theo các hướng dẫn được viết ra ở cuối quyết định này.

Spanish

Atención – Esta decisión afecta sus beneficios de desempleo. Si no entiende esta decisión, comuníquese inmediatamente con la Junta de Apelaciones de Empleo. Si no está de acuerdo con esta decisión, puede presentar una Aplicación de Revisión Judicial ante el Tribunal de Apelaciones de Oregon siguiendo las instrucciones escritas al final de la decisión.

Russian

Внимание – Данное решение влияет на ваше пособие по безработице. Если решение Вам непонятно – немедленно обратитесь в Апелляционный Комитет по Трудоустройству. Если Вы не согласны с принятым решением, вы можете подать Ходатайство о Пересмотре Судебного Решения в Апелляционный Суд штата Орегон, следуя инструкциям, описанным в конце решения.

Khmer

ចំណុចសំខាន់ – សេចក្តីសម្រេចនេះមានផលប៉ះពាល់ដល់អត្ថប្រយោជន៍គ្មានការងារធ្វើរបស់លោកអ្នក។ ប្រសិនបើលោកអ្នកមិនយល់អំពីសេចក្តីសម្រេចនេះ សូមទាក់ទងគណៈកម្មការឧទ្ធរណ៍ការងារភ្លាមៗ។ ប្រសិនបើលោកអ្នកមិនយល់ស្របចំពោះសេចក្តីសម្រេចនេះទេ លោកអ្នកអាចដាក់ពាក្យប្តឹងសុំឲ្យមានការពិនិត្យរឿងក្តីឡើងវិញជាមួយតុលាការឧទ្ធរណ៍រដ្ឋ Oregon ដោយអនុវត្តតាមសេចក្តីណែនាំដែលសរសេរនៅខាងចុងបញ្ចប់នៃសេចក្តីសម្រេចនេះ។

Laotian

ເອົາໃຈໃສ່ – ຄໍາຕັດສິນນີ້ມີຜົນກະທົບຕໍ່ກັບເງິນຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອການຫວ່າງງານຂອງທ່ານ. ຖ້າທ່ານບໍ່ເຂົ້າໃຈຄໍາຕັດສິນນີ້, ກະລຸນາຕິດຕໍ່ຫາຄະນະກຳມະການອຸທອນການຈ້າງງານໃນທັນທີ. ຖ້າທ່ານບໍ່ເຫັນດີນຳຄໍາຕັດສິນນີ້, ທ່ານສາມາດຍື່ນຄໍາຮ້ອງຂໍການທົບທວນຄໍາຕັດສິນນຳສານອຸທອນລັດ Oregon ໄດ້ໂດຍປະຕິບັດຕາມຄໍາແນະນຳທີ່ບອກໄວ້ຢູ່ຕອນທ້າຍຂອງຄໍາຕັດສິນນີ້.

Arabic

هذا القرار قد يؤثر على منحة البطالة الخاصة بك، إذا لم تفهم هذا القرار، إتصل بمجلس منازعات العمل فوراً، و إذا كنت لا توافق على هذا القرار، يمكنك رفع شكوى للمراجعة القانونية بمحكمة الإستئناف بأوريغون و ذلك بإتباع الإرشادات المدرجة أسفل القرار .

Farsi

توجه - این حکم بر مزایای بیکاری شما تاثیر می گذارد. اگر با این تصمیم موافق نیستید، بلافاصله با هیأت فرجام خواهی استخدام تماس بگیرید. اگر از این حکم رضایت ندارید، می‌توانید با استفاده از دستور العمل موجود در پایان آن، از دادگاه تجدید نظر اورگان درخواست تجدید نظر کنید.

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