

# STATE OF FLORIDA

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### Executive Order Number 12-03

(Extension of Eligibility Period for Extended Unemployment Benefits)

**WHEREAS**, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Public Law 111-5, allowed Floridians who had exhausted their claims for regular state unemployment benefits the ability to qualify for federally funded extended unemployment benefits provided under the Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010, Public Law 111-118, the Temporary Extension Act of 2010, Public Law 111-144, and the Continuing Extension Act of 2010, Public Law 111-157, the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2010, Public Law 111-205, and the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010, Public Law 111-312, extended these benefits for qualified individuals until January 7, 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order 10-276, signed on December 17, 2010, authorized the State of Florida to accept the additional funding and to pay extended benefits to eligible Floridians through January 7, 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 23, 2011, the Temporary Payroll Tax Cut Continuation Act of 2011, Public Law 112-78 (the "Act") was signed into law, extending access to federal funding for extended benefits through the week ending March 10, 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, despite the drop in the unemployment rate of two percentage points since December 2010 and the addition of more than 120,000 private sector jobs, many Floridians remain unemployed; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Legislature may amend Florida law in the upcoming Legislative Session which begins January 10, 2012 to extend federally funded unemployment compensation benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, the extension of unemployment compensation benefits is 100 percent federally funded with no impact to the tax rates of Florida businesses or to the state's unemployment compensation trust fund;

**NOW THEREFORE, I, RICK SCOTT**, Governor of Florida, in obedience to my constitutional duty to "take care that the laws be faithfully executed," and pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the State of Florida, issue this Executive Order effective immediately:

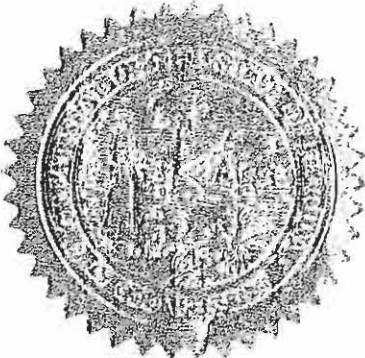
Section 1. The Department of Economic Opportunity is hereby authorized to accept and use the federal funds authorized by the Act for the payment of extended benefits and for the administration of any programs which make such payments, as provided in this Executive Order.

Section 2. For the purposes of establishing an extended benefit period, a "state 'on' indicator" or "high unemployment period", as those terms are defined in Section 443.1117, Florida Statutes, may occur in any week following December 10, 2011 during which the total unemployment rate meets or exceeds the levels prescribed in section 203(f) of the Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970, as amended, but will cease to exist in the fourth week prior to the last week for which 100 percent federal sharing is available for any claim under section 2005(a) of Public Law No. 111-5 without regard to the extension of Federal sharing for certain claims as provided under Section 2005(c) of such law.

Section 3. The provisions of this Executive Order will apply to all extended benefits payable pursuant to the Act for weeks of unemployment beginning after January 7, 2012. In no event shall the Department of Economic Opportunity pay extended benefits for any week of unemployment unless federal law authorizes 100 percent funding of extended benefits for that week.

Section 4. For each week during which the criteria set forth in Section 2 of this Executive Order are satisfied, the Department of Economic Opportunity shall pay extended benefits to all persons who meet the requirements of the Federal-State Extended Unemployment Act of 1970 and section 2005 of the Assistance for Unemployed Workers and Struggling Families Act, as amended by the Act, and any other federal law governing the payment of extended benefits.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2012.



GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE

**FILED**  
2012 JAN -6 PM 5:15  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA