



Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters

Strength in Numbers 95,000

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LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania says workers don't have to report if business reopens illegally

In an article published online by the Tribune Review© by staff writer Joe Napsha, the article states that Pennsylvania workers who refuse to report to any business that opens in violation of Gov. Tom Wolf's orders will not lose their unemployment benefits, a state official said Monday.

"If a business opens in defiance of the governor's orders ... those employees may stay home and not lose their benefits," state Labor & Industry Secretary Jerry Oleksiak said.

Area businesses opening up despite Wolf's requirements that they remain closed has become an issue as people have protested against coronavirus-related shutdowns that have been in effect for much of the state since mid-March. Several district attorneys across the region and state have said they

would not prosecute any business owner who defies the governor's order to remain closed.

Business owners such as beauticians, however, could lose a state license to operate and be subject to a fine, the state said.

Once a business is permitted to open, however, an employee who refuses to return to work could be fired if they are an at-will employee and not protected by a union contract, Oleksiak said. The employee who remains at home instead of reporting for work would have "cause" for not going back to work if they are in a group that is at high risk if infected by covid-19 or if their immune system is suppressed, he said.

View entire article at: <https://triblive.com/news/pennsylvania/state-says-workers-dont-have-to-report-if-business-reopens-illegally/>