

NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALABAMA
Department of
Industrial Relations
News For Immediate Release
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ALABAMA EMPLOYERS MAY FILE NEW-HIRES ELECTRONICALLY

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, October 27, 2004 Alabama employers with Internet access have an easy, efficient, and secure method of compliance with the mandatory reporting of all newly-hired and recalled workers to the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations.

“Electronic filing of New-Hires may be completed through the Industrial Relations Web site: www.dir.alabama.gov/, where there is a “New-Hire Program” link on the home page,” says Phyllis Kennedy, Industrial Relations director. “Use of this online system will save employers money on mailing costs entailed by the other methods of reporting that are also available, such as magnetic media and New-Hire forms. It also allows for better use of tax dollars since it helps reduce the number of employees assigned to transposing New-Hire information into our computer system.”

When Alabama enacted The New-Hire Act of 1997, it brought the state into compliance with the Federal Welfare Reform Act of 1996. The key components of the act are the following: curtail overpayment of unemployment compensation by preventing payment to individuals who have returned to work; stop individuals from receiving workers’ compensation while employed; recoup the cost of over-issuance of food stamps from unemployment compensation; and locate non-custodial parents who are delinquent in legal child support obligations. Employers who fail to report New-Hires may be fined up to \$25 for each violation.

“The New-Hire program will save Alabama approximately \$1.5 million in 2004 by preventing overpayments against the state’s Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund,” says Kennedy.

For further New-Hire information, contact the Industrial Relations New-Hire Unit at 334-353-8491; (Fax) 334-242-8956; or (E-mail) newhire@dir.state.al.us.

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Industrial Relations is an umbrella organization of State government which administers: the State Employment Service, Unemployment Insurance, Workers’ Compensation, and Labor Market Information. Smaller programs also administered include Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation, Mine Safety and Inspection, and Surface Mining of Non-Fuel Minerals. For more information on DIR visit the Web site: <http://dir.alabama.gov/>.