

NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALABAMA
Department of Industrial Relations
News For Immediate Release
Contact: Ron Macksoud, 334-242-8616

ONLINE OPTION AVAILABLE TO REPORT NEW HIRES & RECALLED WORKERS

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, August 10, 2007 Alabama employers may use the Internet for the mandatory reporting of newly-hired and recalled workers to the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations through the homepage of the Industrial Relations Web site: www.dir.alabama.gov/.

“Electronic filing of New-Hires is an easy, efficient, and secure method that saves employers money on mailing costs, compared to other means of compliance still available,” says Phyllis Kennedy, Alabama Department of Industrial Relations director. “Among the many advantages of Alabama New-Hire is a reduction in overpayments of unemployment insurance benefits, which saves the Alabama Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund thousands of dollars.”

According to Kennedy, Alabama New-Hire also reduces unemployment compensation taxes where benefits would have otherwise been charged against an employer’s experience rating account; unemployment compensation shared costs that affect all tax-rated employers; and unemployment benefits paid to workers who refuse jobs. In addition, Kennedy says costs associated with Workers’ Compensation, Medicaid and Food Stamps are lowered through Alabama New-Hire.

Alabama New-Hire dates back to 1994, when reporting of a newly-hired or a recalled worker was done strictly on a voluntary basis. To bring the state into compliance with the Federal Reform Act of 1996, Alabama passed the New-Hire Act of 1997 making that process mandatory.

“The online option associated with Alabama New-Hire is among a host of technological advances made available to employers in recent years by Industrial Relations,” says Kennedy.

“Employers may also compute, file and pay unemployment taxes through our Web site, as well as upload records of employees’ wage history.”

#

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 Industrial Relations, visit the Web site: <http://dir.alabama.gov/>.