Amends the Unemployment Insurance Act’s “labor dispute disqualification” to narrow the circumstances under which locked out workers will be ineligible for unemployment benefits by virtue of that disqualification.

Business or Industry Type Affected:
Any employer whose business is involved in a labor dispute and who initiates a “lockout”

Effective Date:
January 1, 2006

Plain Language Explanation:
Amends Section 604 of the Unemployment Insurance Act (the Act’s “labor dispute disqualification”) to provide that a “lockout” by the employer shall not constitute a labor dispute - and, therefore, that locked-out workers will not be ineligible for unemployment benefits by virtue of Section 604 - unless the workers’ certified collective bargaining representative refuses to meet with the employer under reasonable conditions or there is a final adjudication under the National Labor Relations Act that the representative of the workers has refused to bargain in good faith with the employer or the lockout is the direct result of a violation of an existing collective bargaining agreement by the representative of the locked out workers.

Members of the public may submit comments to the agency contact listed above. Comments should be submitted within 45-days of publication in the Illinois Register.