

1 State of Arkansas
2 88th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2011
4

As Engrossed: S3/21/11

A Bill

SENATE BILL 806

5 By: Senator Elliott
6 By: Representative Murdock
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO BE TITLED THE ARKANSAS RESTORATIVE JUSTICE
9 RESPONSIBILITY ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

11 TO BE TITLED THE ARKANSAS RESTORATIVE
12 JUSTICE RESPONSIBILITY ACT.
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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20 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 82, Subchapter 1 is amended*
21 *to add a new section to read as follows:*

22 *6-82-107. Criminal history not a disqualifier.*

23 *A criminal conviction shall not be used as a basis to disqualify a*
24 *person from eligibility for a scholarship, grant, loan forgiveness program,*
25 *or other benefit subsidized by state funds under this chapter unless there is*
26 *a specific statutory reason for denial that relates to the basis of*
27 *assistance.*
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29 *SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 11, Chapter 2, Subchapter 1 is amended*
30 *to create a new section to read as follows:*

31 *11-2-123. Employment training and placement programs for ex-offenders.*

32 *(a) In order to help facilitate the restoration of an ex-offender's*
33 *responsibility and self-sufficiency, the Department of Labor shall work in*
34 *conjunction with other appropriate state agencies, the private sector, and*
35 *labor organizations to promulgate rules for implementing placement and*
36 *training programs for ex-offenders.*



1 (b) Training and placement programs shall be intensive and focus on
 2 in-demand vocations and professions, including without limitation:

3 (1) Professional careers and vocations;

4 (2) Service careers and vocations;

5 (3) Information and computer technology;

6 (4) Medical technology; and

7 (5) Office administration.

8 (c) A training program created and administered under this section
 9 shall incorporate a "Certificate of Completion" to be awarded to any person
 10 who completes a training program under this section, which shall signify that
 11 the person is competent to enter the workforce as an employee satisfactorily
 12 trained in a particular vocation or profession or as an employee prepared for
 13 on-the-job training.

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 15 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 12, Chapter 28, Subchapter 1 is amended
 16 to add a new section to read as follows:

17 12-28-107. Training for inmates.

18 (a) As provided for in § 12-28-101, the Department of Correction shall
 19 provide education as well as training for inmates who want to acquire skills
 20 for employment upon release.

21 (b)(1) The department shall identify high-demand vocations and careers
 22 and shall accordingly create training and skills programs to prepare inmates
 23 for gainful employment upon release.

24 (2) The programs under this section shall be available to all
 25 inmates except for inmates who disqualify themselves from participation due
 26 to disciplinary violations or because of other circumstances that may
 27 preclude the inmates' access to these programs.

28 (3) Programs under this section shall include without limitation
 29 training in the following fields:

30 (A) Professional careers and vocations;

31 (B) Service careers and vocations;

32 (C) Information and computer technology;

33 (D) Medical technology; and

34 (E) Office administration.

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 36 SECTION 4. DO NOT CODIFY. Establishment of a study.

1 (a) The Department of Finance and Administration or other appropriate
2 state agency designated by the Governor shall explore the feasibility of the
3 state's assuming responsibility for limiting liability for a business or
4 other commercial or nonprofit enterprise that knowingly employs ex-offenders.

5 (b) If the limiting of liability proves feasible and prudent, the
6 Department of Finance and Administration or other appropriate agency
7 designated by the Governor shall promulgate rules and regulations for
8 implementation of a practice allowing the limitation of liability.

9 (c) Authority to determine feasibility and prudence under this section
10 rests solely with the Department of Finance and Administration or other
11 appropriate state agency designated by the Governor.

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/s/Elliott

APPROVED: 04/04/2011