

1 **State of Arkansas**
2 **79th General Assembly**
3 **Second Extraordinary Session, 1994**
4 **By: Representative Riable**

A Bill

Call Item 4

HOUSE BILL

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT ANY ADULT OR JUVENILE OFFENDER
9 CHARGED AS AN ADULT WHO IS CONVICTED OF A FELONY SHALL
10 FORFEIT ALL RIGHTS TO RECEIVE PUBLIC BENEFITS; AND TO
11 DECLARE AN EMERGENCY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Subtitle

14 "TO PROVIDE THAT PERSONS CONVICTED OF A
15 FELONY SHALL FORFEIT ALL RIGHTS TO
16 RECEIVE PUBLIC BENEFITS."

18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

20 SECTION 1. As used in this act, unless the context otherwise requires:
21 (1) "Public benefits" means any federal or state funds, or any
22 combination thereof, in cash or kind, whose distribution to the public is
23 administered by an agency of the State of Arkansas, including but not limited
24 to public housing, Medicare, Medicaid, unemployment benefits, food stamps, and
25 welfare;

26 (2) "Felony" means a criminal offense for which a defendant may be
27 sentenced to pay a fine that exceeds one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or a
28 determinate sentence that exceeds one (1) year or both.

30 SECTION 2. In addition to any other penalties as set forth by law, an
31 adult or juvenile offender charged as an adult who pleads guilty, nolo
32 contendere, or is found guilty of a felony shall be ineligible to receive
33 public benefits for a period of three (3) years after the court pronounces
34 judgment.

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1 SECTION 3. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
2 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
3 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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5 SECTION 4. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
6 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
7 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
8 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
9 act are declared to be severable.

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11 SECTION 5. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
12 hereby repealed.

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14 SECTION 6. EMERGENCY. It is hereby found and determined by the General
15 Assembly that the rate of serious crime is steadily rising throughout the
16 State of Arkansas; that a substantial number of persons convicted of a felony
17 receive public benefits at one time or another; and that it is essential to
18 the preservation of the safety of the people of this State that all reasonable
19 actions be taken to discourage criminal activity. Therefore, an emergency is
20 hereby declared to exist and this Act being immediately necessary for the
21 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall be in full force
22 and effect from and after its passage and approval.

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