

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

A Bill

SENATE BILL 245

By: Senator E. Williams

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO REQUIRE PERSONS WHO DO NOT HAVE A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR HAVE NOT PASSED THE HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY TEST TO TAKE ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES TOWARD PASSING THE HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY TEST WHILE RECEIVING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT TO REQUIRE A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA, A HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY TEST, OR ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES TOWARD A HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY TEST WHILE RECEIVING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 11-10-507(3)(A), concerning eligibility for receipt of unemployment benefits is amended to read as follows:

(3) Able to Work and Available for Work.

(A)(i) The worker is unemployed, is physically and mentally able to perform suitable work, and is available for such work.

(ii) "Physically and mentally able to perform suitable work" includes:

(a) Having a high school diploma;

(b) Having passed a high school equivalency test; or

(c)(1) Enrolling in adult education classes



1 that lead toward passing the high school equivalency test.

2 (2) A recipient of unemployment benefits
3 who is enrolled in adult education classes under subdivision (3)(A)(ii)(c)(1)
4 of this section shall remain continuously enrolled in the adult education
5 classes until the recipient passes the high school equivalency test or ceases
6 to receive unemployment benefits.

7 (iii) The requirements under subdivision (3)(A)(ii)
8 of this section may be waived for a worker if the Director of the Department
9 of Workforce Services deems the requirements unduly burdensome.

10 (iv) Mere registration and reporting at a local
11 employment office shall not be conclusive evidence of ability to work,
12 availability for work, or willingness to accept work unless the individual is
13 doing those things which a reasonably prudent individual would be expected to
14 do to secure work.

15 (v) In determining suitable work under this section
16 and for refusing to apply for or accept suitable work under § 11-10-515,
17 part-time work shall be considered suitable work unless the majority of weeks
18 of work in the period used to determine monetary ~~eligibility~~ eligibility is
19 from full-time work.

20
21 SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. (a) The Department of Workforce Services,
22 in consultation with the Department of Career Education, shall adopt rules
23 regarding eligibility for unemployment benefits under this act.

24 (b) The Department of Career Education, in consultation with the
25 Department of Workforce Services, shall adopt rules regarding adult education
26 classes that lead toward passing the high school equivalency test under this
27 act.