

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4

As Engrossed: H3/6/17

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1251

5 By: Representatives Walker, Ballinger
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO CREATE THE HELPING OUR PEOPLE EXCEL
9 (H.O.P.E.) ACT OF 2017; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

11 TO CREATE THE HELPING OUR PEOPLE EXCEL
12 (H.O.P.E.) ACT OF 2017.
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 20-76-409 is amended to read as follows:
20 20-76-409. Disqualification and sanction Opt out.

21 ~~(a) Each individual applying for assistance under this chapter shall~~
22 ~~state in writing during the application process whether the individual or any~~
23 ~~member of the household of the individual has been found guilty of or pleaded~~
24 ~~guilty or nolo contendere to a crime described in subsection (b) of this~~
25 ~~section.~~

26 ~~(b) No individual who has been found guilty of or has pleaded guilty~~
27 ~~or nolo contendere to any state or federal offense classified as a felony by~~
28 ~~the law of the jurisdiction involved and which has as an element of the~~
29 ~~offense the distribution or manufacture of a controlled substance, as defined~~
30 ~~in section 102(6) of the Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. § 802(6), shall~~
31 ~~be eligible for:~~

32 ~~(1) Assistance under any state program funded wholly or~~
33 ~~partially under Part A of Title IV of the Social Security Act;~~

34 ~~(2) Assistance under any state program created by this chapter;~~

35 ~~or~~

36 ~~(3) Benefits under the food stamp program.~~



1 ~~(c)(1) The amount of the assistance otherwise required to be provided~~
2 ~~under transitional employment assistance to the family members of an~~
3 ~~individual made ineligible by this section shall be reduced by the amount~~
4 ~~which would have otherwise been made available to the individual.~~

5 ~~(2) The amount of benefits otherwise required to be provided to~~
6 ~~a household under the food stamp program shall be determined by considering~~
7 ~~the individual made ineligible by this section not to be a member of such~~
8 ~~household, except that the income and resources of the individual shall be~~
9 ~~considered to be income and resources of the household.~~

10 ~~(d) Clear notice of this section shall be provided in the personal~~
11 ~~responsibility agreement.~~

12 ~~(e) This section shall not apply to findings of guilt or pleas of~~
13 ~~guilty or nolo contendere for offenses occurring on or before July 1, 1997.~~

14 ~~(f) In accordance with this section, the The State of Arkansas opts~~
15 ~~out of ~~section~~ Section 115 of the Personal Responsibility and Work~~
16 ~~Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-193.~~

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19 /s/Walker

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22 **APPROVED: 03/22/2017**