

1 State of Arkansas  
2 92nd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2019  
4

As Engrossed: H3/25/19

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1775

5 By: Representatives Bentley, Beck, Cloud, Gates, G. Hodges, McCollum, Penzo, B. Smith, Womack  
6 By: Senator Flippo  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
10 ABLE-BODIED ADULTS ACT OF 2019; TO REQUIRE ABLE-  
11 BODIED RECIPIENTS OF SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION  
12 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BENEFITS TO COMPLY WITH EMPLOYMENT  
13 AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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15

## Subtitle

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17 TO CREATE THE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES  
18 FOR ABLE-BODIED ADULTS ACT OF 2019.  
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 76, is amended to add an  
24 additional subchapter to read as follows:

25 Subchapter 8 – Employment Opportunities for Able-Bodied Adults Act of 2019

26  
27 20-76-801. Title.

28 This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Employment  
29 Opportunities for Able-Bodied Adults Act of 2019".  
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31 20-76-802. Legislative findings and intent.

32 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

33 (1) Arkansas has made great strides in promoting work for able-  
34 bodied adults across other public assistance programs;

35 (2) Arkansas can continue those initiatives by further creating  
36 opportunities and spurring economic development by improving its workforce;



1           (3) Arkansas provides Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
2 benefits to more than one hundred and twenty-three thousand (123,000) able-  
3 bodied adults without young children;

4           (4) The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in Arkansas  
5 should be protected and preserved for the truly vulnerable;

6           (5) Most able-bodied adults receiving Supplemental Nutrition  
7 Assistance Program benefits in Arkansas do not work at all;

8           (6) Arkansas has the opportunity under federal law to refer  
9 able-bodied adults to employment and training programs;

10           (7) Arkansas has more than thirty-two thousand and six hundred  
11 (32,600) open jobs; and

12           (8) Arkansas is projected to create more than one hundred and  
13 sixty-six thousand (166,000) jobs in 2019.

14           (b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that this subchapter  
15 shall increase employment and self-sufficiency among able-bodied adults who  
16 are receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits.

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18           20-76-803. Employment and training program requirement.

19           The Department of Human Services shall require an able-bodied adult  
20 under sixty (60) years of age who receives Supplemental Nutrition Assistance  
21 Program benefits, has dependents who are all at least six (6) years of age  
22 and under eighteen (18) years of age or who has no dependents, and is not  
23 otherwise subject to the requirements under 7 U.S.C. § 2015(o), as it existed  
24 on January 1, 2019, to participate in an employment and training program  
25 established under 7 U.S.C. § 2015(d)(4), as it existed on January 1, 2019,  
26 including without limitation a program operated by the department that  
27 authorizes a work registrant to perform public service activities through  
28 work experience to fulfill the work requirement necessary to receive  
29 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits.

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31           20-76-804. Reporting requirement.

32           (a) The Department of Human Services shall report the department's  
33 implementation of the employment and training program requirement under § 20-  
34 76-803 one (1) time per calendar quarter to the House Committee on Public  
35 Health, Welfare, and Labor.

36           (b) The department shall develop and submit a report containing

1 statistics of participation in the employment and training program one (1)  
2 time per calendar quarter to the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare,  
3 and Labor.

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5 SECTION 2. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY.

6 (a) The Department of Human Services shall implement the requirements  
7 of the employment and training program under § 20-76-803 in Section 1 of this  
8 act by October 1, 2021.

9 (b) The first report required under § 20-76-804(b) in Section 1 of  
10 this act is required after October 1, 2021.

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14 */s/Bentley*

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17 **APPROVED: 4/12/19**  
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