

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

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 209

5 By: Senators E. Williams, G. Baker, Bledsoe, Burnett, L. Chesterfield, Crumbly, J. Dismang, Files,  
6 Fletcher, Hendren, Holland, J. Hutchinson, Irvin, G. Jeffress, J. Jeffress, J. Key, M. Lamoureux, Rapert,  
7 Salmon, B. Sample, J. Taylor, Teague, Whitaker  
8 By: Representatives Bell, English, Mayberry, Pierce  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO REQUIRE PERSONS WHO DO NOT HAVE A HIGH  
11 SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR HAVE NOT PASSED THE GENERAL  
12 EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEST TO TAKE ADULT EDUCATION  
13 CLASSES TOWARD PASSING THE GENERAL EDUCATIONAL  
14 DEVELOPMENT TEST WHILE RECEIVING UNEMPLOYMENT  
15 BENEFITS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

19 AN ACT TO REQUIRE A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA,  
20 A GED, OR ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES TOWARD  
21 A GED WHILE RECEIVING UNEMPLOYMENT  
22 BENEFITS.  
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26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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28 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 11-10-507(3)(A), concerning eligibility for  
29 receipt of unemployment benefits is amended to read as follows:

30 (3) Able to Work and Available for Work.

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

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

35 (a) Having a high school diploma;

36 (b) Having passed the General Educational



1 Development Test; or

2 (c)(1) Enrolling in adult education classes  
3 that lead toward passing the General Educational Development Test.

4 (2) A recipient of unemployment benefits  
5 who is enrolled in adult education classes under subdivision (3)(A)(ii)(c)(1)  
6 of this section shall remain continuously enrolled in the adult education  
7 classes until the recipient passes the General Educational Development Test  
8 or ceases to receive unemployment benefits.

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

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

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

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

26 (b) The Department of Career Education, in consultation with the  
27 Department of Workforce Services, shall adopt rules regarding adult education  
28 classes that lead toward passing the General Educational Development Test  
29 under this act.

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