

1 State of Arkansas  
2 93rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2021  
4

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 153

5 By: Senator Gilmore  
6 By: Representative Ray  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE WORKFORCE EXPANSION ACT OF 2021;  
10 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
11

## Subtitle

14 TO CREATE THE WORKFORCE EXPANSION ACT OF  
15 2021.  
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 4, Chapter 25, Subchapter 1, is amended  
21 to add an additional section to read as follows:

22 4-25-110. Fee waiver for certain individuals.

23 (a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the initial filing fees,  
24 permit fees, and licensing fees associated with the formation of a business  
25 in this state shall be waived for applicants who meet the requirements in the  
26 Workforce Expansion Act of 2021, § 17-4-101 et seq.

27 (b) Appropriate state entities shall:

28 (1) Publish notice of the fee waiver on:

29 (A) The website maintained by the appropriate state  
30 entity; and

31 (B) Any relevant forms that an applicant is required to  
32 complete; and

33 (2) Promulgate any necessary rules to implement this section.  
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35 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 17, is amended to add an additional  
36 chapter to read as follows:



Chapter 4 – Workforce Expansion Act of 2021

17-4-101. Title.

This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Workforce Expansion Act of 2021".

17-4-102. Legislative findings – Purpose.

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Entrepreneurs and workers must pay various fees in order to work in a government-regulated profession or occupation or to start a small business in Arkansas;

(2) Families trying to break the cycle of government dependency should not have to pay the state to earn a living; and

(3) Arkansas should waive initial fees associated with occupational and professional regulations and the formation of a business for low-income individuals.

(b) It is the purpose of this chapter to increase access to professional and occupational licenses that would otherwise be cost prohibitive for certain individuals.

17-4-103. Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

(1) "License" means a license, certificate, registration, permit, or other form of authorization required by law or rule that is required for an individual to engage in a particular occupation or profession;

(2) "Licensing entity" means an office, board, commission, department, council, bureau, or other agency of state government having authority to license, certify, register, permit, or otherwise authorize an individual to engage in a particular occupation or profession.

17-4-104. Fee waiver.

Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a licensing entity shall not require an initial fee for individuals who are seeking to receive a license in this state if the applicant has a household income that does not exceed two hundred percent (200%) of the federal poverty income guidelines.

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2 17-4-105. Licensing entity duties.

3 A licensing entity shall:

4 (1) Publish notice of the fee waiver on:

5 (A) The website maintained by the licensing entity; and

6 (B) Any relevant forms that an applicant is required to  
7 complete; and

8 (2) Promulgate any necessary rules to implement this chapter.

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10 SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

11 SECTIONS 1 and 2 of this act shall be effective on and after January 1,  
12 2022.