

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.
Act 566 of the Regular Session

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

As Engrossed: H3/6/17
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1251

4
5 By: Representatives Walker, Ballinger

7 **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.*

11
12 **Subtitle**

13 *TO CREATE THE HELPING OUR PEOPLE EXCEL*
14 *(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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/s/Walker

APPROVED: 03/22/2017