

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

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 209

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

10 Filed with: Interim Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare and Labor  
11 pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

## For An Act To Be Entitled

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

## Subtitle

19  
20  
21 AN ACT TO REQUIRE A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA,  
22 A GED, OR ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES TOWARD  
23 A GED WHILE RECEIVING UNEMPLOYMENT  
24 BENEFITS.  
25  
26  
27

28 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

29  
30 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 11-10-507(3)(A), concerning eligibility for  
31 receipt of unemployment benefits is amended to read as follows:

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

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

35 (ii) “Physically and mentally able to perform  
36 suitable work” includes:

- 1                                    (a) Having a high school diploma;
- 2                                    (b) Having passed the General Educational
- 3 Development Test; or
- 4                                    (c)(1) Enrolling in adult education classes
- 5 that lead toward passing the General Educational Development Test.
- 6                                    (2) A recipient of unemployment benefits
- 7 who is enrolled in adult education classes under subdivision (3)(A)(ii)(c)(1)
- 8 of this section shall remain continuously enrolled in the adult education
- 9 classes until the recipient passes the General Educational Development Test
- 10 or ceases to receive unemployment benefits.
- 11                                    (iii) The requirements under subdivision (3)(A)(ii)
- 12 of this section may be waived for a worker if the Director of the Department
- 13 of Workforce deems the requirements unduly burdensome.
- 14                                    (iv) Mere registration and reporting at a local
- 15 employment office shall not be conclusive evidence of ability to work,
- 16 availability for work, or willingness to accept work unless the individual is
- 17 doing those things which a reasonably prudent individual would be expected to
- 18 do to secure work.
- 19                                    (v) In determining suitable work under this section
- 20 and for refusing to apply for or accept suitable work under § 11-10-515,
- 21 part-time work shall be considered suitable work unless the majority of weeks
- 22 of work in the period used to determine monetary ~~eligibility~~ eligibility is
- 23 from full-time work.

24

25            SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. (a) The Department of Workforce Services,

26 in consultation with the Department of Career Education, shall adopt rules

27 regarding eligibility for unemployment benefits under this act.

28            (b) The Department of Career Education, in consultation with the

29 Department of Workforce Services, shall adopt rules regarding adult education

30 classes that lead toward passing the General Educational Development Test

31 under this act.

32

33 Referred by the Arkansas Senate

34 Prepared by: MGF/VJF

35

36