

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

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.
14

Subtitle

15
16 TO CREATE THE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
17 FOR ABLE-BODIED ADULTS ACT OF 2019.
18
19
20

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
22

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.

17
 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. § 2029, 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.

30
 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.