

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

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1460

5 By: Representative Womack
6 By: Senator T. Garner
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE WORKFORCE FREEDOM ACT OF 2021;
10 TO ELIMINATE DUPLICATIVE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS AT
11 THE LOCAL LEVEL; TO INCREASE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES
12 FOR WORKERS IN ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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16 TO CREATE THE WORKFORCE FREEDOM ACT OF
17 2021; TO ELIMINATE DUPLICATIVE LICENSING
18 REQUIREMENTS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL; AND TO
19 INCREASE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR
20 WORKERS IN ARKANSAS.
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 17, Chapter 1, Subchapter 1, is amended
26 to add an additional section to read as follows:

27 17-1-109. Workforce Freedom Act of 2021 – Legislative findings –

28 Purpose.

29 (a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Workforce
30 Freedom Act of 2021".

31 (b) The General Assembly finds that:

32 (1) Political subdivisions create a patchwork of occupational
33 regulations and licensing fees for workers to comply with as they travel
34 throughout the State of Arkansas;

35 (2) Local occupational licensing compounds the negative effects
36 of state-level licensing, holding back workers and the state economy; and



1 (3) Eliminating local licenses that are already regulated on the
2 state level and prohibiting political subdivisions from creating new
3 occupational licensing requirements would streamline regulations and give
4 Arkansas workers the freedom to work throughout the state.

5 (c) The purpose of this section is to eliminate duplicative licensing
6 requirements at the local level and make it easier for workers to pursue
7 economic opportunities across Arkansas.

8 (d) Unless specifically authorized by the General Assembly, cities,
9 counties, or other political subdivisions of the state shall not enact or
10 enforce a law, ordinance, rule, or regulation requiring the licensing,
11 certification, or registration of any person to practice or conduct a trade,
12 occupation, or profession.

13 (e)(1) The power to regulate occupations for the protection of the
14 public shall be exclusively a function of the General Assembly.

15 (2) Cities, counties, or other political subdivisions of the
16 state may only propose and enforce the regulation of a trade, occupation, or
17 profession to the extent expressly authorized by the General Assembly.

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