

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

A Bill

SENATE BILL 730

4
5 By: Senator T. Garner
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO AMEND THE DIVISION OF WORKFORCE SERVICES
9 LAW; TO AMEND THE LAW REGARDING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS
10 TO AUTHORIZE UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR AN INDIVIDUAL
11 WHO IS TERMINATED SOLELY DUE TO A REFUSAL TO BE
12 VACCINATED AGAINST CORONAVIRUS 2019 (COVID-19); AND
13 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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17 TO AMEND THE DIVISION OF WORKFORCE
18 SERVICES LAW TO AUTHORIZE UNEMPLOYMENT
19 BENEFITS FOR AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS
20 TERMINATED SOLELY DUE TO A REFUSAL TO BE
21 VACCINATED AGAINST CORONAVIRUS 2019
22 (COVID-19).
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25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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27 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 11-10-513(b), concerning the exceptions
28 from disqualification for unemployment benefits due to voluntarily leaving
29 work, is amended to read as follows:

30 (b) ~~No~~ An individual shall not be disqualified under this section if
31 after making reasonable efforts to preserve his or her job rights he or she
32 left his or her last work:

33 (1) Due to a personal emergency of such nature and compelling
34 urgency that it would be contrary to good conscience to impose a
35 disqualification;

36 (2)(A) Because of illness, injury, pregnancy, or disability of



1 the individual or a member of the individual's immediate family.

2 (B) As used in subdivision (b)(2)(A) of this section,
3 "immediate family member" means a spouse, child, parent, brother, sister,
4 grandchild, or grandparent of the individual;

5 (3)(A) Due to domestic violence that causes the individual
6 reasonably to believe that the individual's continued employment will
7 jeopardize the safety of the individual or a member of the individual's
8 immediate family.

9 (B) As used in subdivision (b)(3)(A) of this section,
10 "immediate family member" means a spouse, child, parent, brother, sister,
11 grandchild, or grandparent of the individual; ~~or~~

12 (4) To accompany the individual's spouse because of a change in
13 the location of the spouse's employment that makes it impractical to commute;
14 or

15 (5) Due to a refusal by the individual to be vaccinated against
16 coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) or its variants.

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18 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 11-10-514, concerning disqualification for
19 unemployment benefits generally due to discharge for misconduct, is amended
20 to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

21 (d) An individual shall not be disqualified for benefits if he or she
22 is terminated solely due to a refusal to be vaccinated against coronavirus
23 2019 (COVID-19) or its variants.
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