

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1197

5 By: Representative Underwood
6 By: Senator Gilmore
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT CONCERNING DISQUALIFICATION FOR UNEMPLOYMENT
10 COMPENSATION BENEFITS UNDER THE DIVISION OF WORKFORCE
11 SERVICES LAW; TO PROHIBIT A CLAIMANT FOR UNEMPLOYMENT
12 COMPENSATION BENEFITS FROM "GHOSTING" PROSPECTIVE
13 EMPLOYERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

16 CONCERNING DISQUALIFICATION FOR
17 UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS UNDER
18 THE DIVISION OF WORKFORCE SERVICES LAW;
19 AND TO PROHIBIT A CLAIMANT FOR
20 UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS FROM
21 "GHOSTING" PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYERS.
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25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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27 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Title – Purpose.

28 (a) This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Prohibiting
29 Unemployment Claimants from Ghosting Employers Act of 2023".

30 (b) The purpose of this act is to disqualify a claimant from
31 collecting unemployment compensation benefits for any week that the claimant
32 fails to respond to an offer of employment or fails to appear for a
33 previously scheduled job interview.
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35 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 11-10-515(a)(1)(A), concerning the
36 disqualification for unemployment compensation benefits due to failure or



1 refusal to apply for or accept suitable work under the Division of Workforce
 2 Services Law, is amended to read as follows:

3 (a)(1)(A) If so found by the Director of the Division of Workforce
 4 Services, an individual shall be disqualified for benefits if he or she has
 5 failed without good cause:

6 (i) To apply for available suitable work when so
 7 directed by a Division of Workforce Services office; ~~or~~

8 (ii) To accept available suitable work when offered
 9 within five (5) business days of the offer of a job; or

10 (iii)(a) To appear for a previously scheduled job
 11 interview on at least two (2) occasions without notifying the prospective
 12 employer of the need to cancel or reschedule the job interview.

13 (b) A prospective employer shall notify the
 14 division of the individual's failure to appear for a scheduled job interview
 15 through an online portal established by the division or through an email or
 16 telephone number designated for reporting noncompliance.

17 (c) Before the director disqualifies an
 18 individual from a week of unemployment compensation benefits for
 19 noncompliance under this subdivision (a)(1)(A)(iii), the director shall
 20 verify the information submitted by the employer under subdivision
 21 (a)(1)(A)(iii)(b) of this section.

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 23 SECTION 3. DO NOT CODIFY. EFFECTIVE DATE. This act is effective on
 24 and after January 1, 2024.