

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.  
Act 974 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas  
92nd General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2019

As Engrossed: H3/25/19

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1775

By: Representatives Bentley, Beck, Cloud, Gates, G. Hodges, McCollum, Penzo, B. Smith, Womack  
By: Senator Flippo

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR ABLE-BODIED ADULTS ACT OF 2019; TO REQUIRE ABLE-BODIED RECIPIENTS OF SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BENEFITS TO COMPLY WITH EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

TO CREATE THE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR ABLE-BODIED ADULTS ACT OF 2019.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 76, is amended to add an additional subchapter to read as follows:

Subchapter 8 – Employment Opportunities for Able-Bodied Adults Act of 2019

20-76-801. Title.

This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Employment Opportunities for Able-Bodied Adults Act of 2019".

20-76-802. Legislative findings and intent.

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Arkansas has made great strides in promoting work for able-bodied adults across other public assistance programs;

(2) Arkansas can continue those initiatives by further creating opportunities and spurring economic development by improving its workforce;



(3) Arkansas provides Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits to more than one hundred and twenty-three thousand (123,000) able-bodied adults without young children;

(4) The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in Arkansas should be protected and preserved for the truly vulnerable;

(5) Most able-bodied adults receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits in Arkansas do not work at all;

(6) Arkansas has the opportunity under federal law to refer able-bodied adults to employment and training programs;

(7) Arkansas has more than thirty-two thousand and six hundred (32,600) open jobs; and

(8) Arkansas is projected to create more than one hundred and sixty-six thousand (166,000) jobs in 2019.

(b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that this subchapter shall increase employment and self-sufficiency among able-bodied adults who are receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits.

20-76-803. Employment and training program requirement.

The Department of Human Services shall require an able-bodied adult under sixty (60) years of age who receives Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, has dependents who are all at least six (6) years of age and under eighteen (18) years of age or who has no dependents, and is not otherwise subject to the requirements under 7 U.S.C. § 2015(o), as it existed on January 1, 2019, to participate in an employment and training program established under 7 U.S.C. § 2015(d)(4), as it existed on January 1, 2019, including without limitation a program operated by the department that authorizes a work registrant to perform public service activities through work experience to fulfill the work requirement necessary to receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits.

20-76-804. Reporting requirement.

(a) The Department of Human Services shall report the department's implementation of the employment and training program requirement under § 20-76-803 one (1) time per calendar quarter to the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor.

(b) The department shall develop and submit a report containing

statistics of participation in the employment and training program one (1) time per calendar quarter to the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor.

SECTION 2. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY.

(a) The Department of Human Services shall implement the requirements of the employment and training program under § 20-76-803 in Section 1 of this act by October 1, 2021.

(b) The first report required under § 20-76-804(b) in Section 1 of this act is required after October 1, 2021.

*/s/Bentley*

**APPROVED: 4/12/19**