

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2023

As Engrossed: H2/2/23
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1197

By: Representative Underwood

By: Senator Gilmore

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

Subtitle

CONCERNING DISQUALIFICATION FOR
UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS UNDER
THE DIVISION OF WORKFORCE SERVICES LAW;
AND TO PROHIBIT A CLAIMANT FOR
UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS FROM
"GHOSTING" PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYERS.

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

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Title – Purpose.

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

(b) The purpose of this act is to disqualify a claimant from
collecting unemployment compensation benefits for any week that the claimant
fails to respond to an offer of employment or fails to appear for a
previously scheduled job interview.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 11-10-515(a)(1)(A), concerning the
disqualification for unemployment compensation benefits due to failure or



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

/s/Underwood