

1 HB438  
2 173469-3  
3 By Representatives Hanes, Whorton (R), Williams (JW),  
4 Nordgren, Butler, Rich, Pettus, Fridy, Hill (M), Weaver,  
5 Sessions, Shiver, Mooney, Henry and Ledbetter  
6 RFD: State Government  
7 First Read: 17-MAR-16

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, in certain  
9 circumstances, a state may request, a waiver from  
10 the U.S. Department of Agriculture of the work  
11 requirements that an able-bodied adult without  
12 dependents must comply with in order to receive  
13 assistance from the Supplemental Nutritional  
14 Assistance Program (SNAP).

15 This bill would prohibit the Commissioner of  
16 the Department of Human Resources from requesting a  
17 waiver of federal job requirements for able-bodied  
18 adults without dependents who are applicants or  
19 recipients of the Supplemental Nutritional  
20 Assistance Program.

21 This bill would require all able-bodied  
22 adults without dependents who are applicants or  
23 recipients of SNAP benefits to participate in  
24 minimum work requirements, a work training program,  
25 or volunteer community service and provide limited  
26 exemptions from these work requirements.

1                   This bill would also require the Department  
2                   of Human Resources to develop a work training  
3                   program for recipients of SNAP benefits.

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5                   A BILL  
6                   TO BE ENTITLED  
7                   AN ACT

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9                   Relating to federal assistance; to prohibit the  
10                  Commissioner of the Department of Human Resources from  
11                  requesting a waiver of federal job requirements for  
12                  able-bodied adults without dependents who are applicants or  
13                  recipients of the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program  
14                  (SNAP); to require all able-bodied adults without dependents  
15                  who are applicants or recipients of SNAP benefits to  
16                  participate in minimum work requirements, a work training  
17                  program, or volunteer community service and provide limited  
18                  exemptions from these work requirements; and to require the  
19                  Department of Human Resources to develop a work training  
20                  program for recipients of SNAP benefits.

21                  BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

22                  Section 1. (a) As used in this section, an  
23                  able-bodied adult without dependents means an individual  
24                  between the ages of 18 and 49 who has no dependents and is not  
25                  disabled.

26                  (b) The Commissioner of the Department of Human  
27                  Resources is prohibited from requesting a waiver of federal

1 requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents who are  
2 applicants or recipients of the Supplemental Nutritional  
3 Assistance Program (SNAP).

4 (c) The Department of Human Resources shall ensure  
5 that each applicant or recipient of SNAP benefits who is an  
6 able-bodied adult without dependents meets one of the  
7 following requirements:

8 (1) Works at least 20 hours per week, averaged  
9 monthly;

10 (2) Participates in a work training program  
11 developed by the department pursuant to subsection (d).

12 (3) Participates in volunteer community service  
13 activities for up to the value of the food supplement benefit,  
14 calculated by multiplying the state minimum wage by the number  
15 of hours required to equal the SNAP benefit.

16 (d) The Commissioner of the Department of Human  
17 Resources, by rule, shall develop a work training program  
18 whereby a participant's education and employment history,  
19 employment and training interests, barriers to employment, and  
20 support service needs are reviewed and assessed, and  
21 department staff and the participant complete an Individual  
22 Employment Plan (IEP). The IEP is a contract between the  
23 department and the participant that outlines the  
24 responsibilities of the participant and shall include actions  
25 to be taken by the participant to achieve short or long-term  
26 employment related goals. Components of an IEP may include,  
27 but not be limited to, any of the following:

1           (1) Education, including, but not limited to, high  
2 school equivalency preparation or prevocational training.

3           (2) Job skills training, including but not limited  
4 to, customized occupational training or general skills  
5 training.

6           (3) Job counseling.

7           (e) The Commissioner of the Department of Human  
8 Resources shall approve and make publicly available a list of  
9 community agencies that may provide opportunities for  
10 applicants and recipients to fulfill work requirements through  
11 community service activities.

12           (f) An individual recipient of SNAP benefits who is  
13 an able-bodied adult without dependents subject to the  
14 requirements of this section who then loses his or her job,  
15 work training program, or volunteer community service position  
16 shall remain eligible to receive Food Supplement benefits, if  
17 otherwise eligible, for an additional period of three  
18 consecutive months without working or participating in a work  
19 training program or volunteer community service. This  
20 additional three-month period of eligibility is available to  
21 an able-bodied adult without dependents only once in any  
22 36-month period.

23           Section 2. This act shall become effective on the  
24 first day of the third month following its passage and  
25 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.