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3 HOUSE STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SB87
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8 SYNOPSIS: This bill would require the Department of
9 Human Resources to implement an approved employment
10 and training program to assist the members of a
11 household participating in the supplemental
12 nutrition assistance program.

13 This bill would allow the Department of
14 Human Resources to participate in a pilot project
15 established by the Federal Agricultural Act of 2014
16 relating to registrants for the supplemental
17 nutrition assistance program.

18 This bill would prohibit individuals who are
19 eligible for the supplemental nutrition assistance
20 program from participating in the program for a
21 certain time period unless they participated in a
22 qualified work program or a qualified community
23 service program.

24 This bill would also require the Department
25 of Human Resources to promulgate rules for
26 implementation.
27

1 A BILL
2 TO BE ENTITLED
3 AN ACT
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5 Relating to the supplemental nutrition assistance
6 program; to require the Department of Human Resources to
7 implement an approved employment and training program to
8 assist the members of a household participating in the
9 supplemental nutrition assistance program; to require the
10 Department of Human Resources to participate in a pilot
11 project established by the Federal Agricultural Act of 2014,
12 relating to registrants for the supplemental nutrition
13 assistance program; to prohibit individuals who are eligible
14 for the supplemental nutrition assistance program from
15 participating in the program for a certain time period unless
16 they participated in a qualified work program; and to require
17 the Department of Human Resources to promulgate rules for
18 implementation.

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

20 Section 1. This act shall be known and may cited as
21 the Work For Food Stamps Act.

22 Section 2. Whenever used in this act, the following
23 words shall have the following meanings:

24 (1) COVERED INDIVIDUAL. Also known as an able-bodied
25 adult without dependents (ABAWD), an adult between the ages of
26 18 and 50, inclusive, who is not medically certified as

1 physically or mentally unfit for employment and who is none of
2 the following:

3 a. A parent or other member of a household with
4 responsibility for the care of a dependent child or an
5 incapacitated person.

6 b. A pregnant woman.

7 c. A person subject to and complying with a work
8 registration requirement under Title IV of the Social Security
9 Act, as amended 42 U.S.C. §602, or the Federal-State
10 unemployment compensation system.

11 d. A bona fide student enrolled at least half-time
12 in any recognized school, training program, or institution of
13 higher education.

14 e. A person who is otherwise exempt from the work
15 registration requirements of 7 U.S.C. §2015(d)(1) under
16 paragraph 2 of that subsection.

17 (2) DEPARTMENT. The Department of Human Resources.

18 (3) EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM. A program that
19 contains one or more of the components enumerated in 7 U.S.C.
20 §2015(d)(4)(B).

21 (4) QUALIFIED COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM. A program
22 under 7 U.S.C. §2029 or a comparable program established by
23 the state or a political subdivision of the state.

24 (5) QUALIFIED WORK PROGRAM. A program under Title 1
25 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, 29 U.S.C. §2801 et
26 seq.; a program under 19 U.S.C. §2296; or an employment and
27 training program operated or supervised by the state or a

1 political subdivision of the state that meets standards
2 approved by the Governor, other than a job search program or a
3 job search training program.

4 (6) SNAP BENEFITS. Also known as food stamps,
5 financial assistance provided to a household or individual
6 participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
7 Program.

8 Section 3. In accordance with 7 U.S.C. §2015(d)(4),
9 the department shall implement an approved employment and
10 training program for the purpose of assisting members of
11 households participating in the Supplemental Nutrition
12 Assistance Program in gaining skills, training, work, or
13 experience that will increase their ability to obtain regular
14 employment.

15 Section 4. The department may participate in the
16 pilot project established by the federal Agricultural Act of
17 2014, also known as the Farm Bill, to develop and test methods
18 for employment and training programs and services to raise the
19 number of work registrants in the Supplemental Nutrition
20 Assistance Program who obtain unsubsidized employment,
21 increase the earned income of the registrants, and reduce the
22 reliance of the registrants on public assistance, so as to
23 reduce the need for SNAP benefits.

24 Section 5. The department may encourage and promote
25 the establishment of qualified community service programs
26 within the state for the purpose of providing covered
27 individuals who are unemployed with greater opportunities to

1 gain skills, training, work, or experience that will increase
2 their ability to obtain regular employment. The department may
3 provide programmatic assistance upon request to city and
4 county governments.

5 Section 6. In accordance with the provisions of 7
6 U.S.C. §2015 and the administrative regulations pertaining
7 thereto, no covered individual shall be eligible to
8 participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
9 if, during the preceding 36-month period, the individual
10 received SNAP benefits for three months or longer, consecutive
11 or otherwise, during which the individual did none of the
12 following:

13 (1) Work 20 hours or more per week, averaged
14 monthly.

15 (2) Participate in and comply with the requirements
16 of a qualified work program for 20 hours or more per week.

17 (3) Participate in and comply with a qualified
18 community service program for 20 hours or more per week.

19 Section 7. A covered individual who has been denied
20 SNAP benefits under Section 6 may regain and maintain
21 eligibility only as provided by 7 U.S.C. §2015(o) (5).

22 Section 8. Except as specifically provided for by 7
23 U.S.C. §2015(o) (4), the department shall enforce the work
24 requirements of Section 6 notwithstanding any federal waiver
25 made available to the state that would have the effect of
26 waiving, statewide, the work requirements of 7 U.S.C. §2015(o)
27 or any administrative regulations pertaining thereto. When

1 making a request under 7 U.S.C. §2015(o)(4) for areas where
2 unemployment is higher than 10 percent or where there are an
3 insufficient number of jobs, the department shall define the
4 areas by county, relying on data supplied by the Alabama
5 Department of Labor.

6 Section 9. The State Department of Human Resources
7 shall promulgate rules to implement this section.

8 Section 10. This act shall become effective on
9 October 1, 2014, following its passage and approval by the
10 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.