

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 537

5 By: Senator Gilmore
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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE EARNING SAFE REENTRY THROUGH
10 WORK ACT; TO CREATE A SENTENCE CREDIT PROGRAM FOR A
11 PERSON ON PROBATION, PAROLE, OR POST-RELEASE
12 SUPERVISION TO EARN TIME CREDITS THROUGH EMPLOYMENT;
13 TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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17 TO CREATE THE EARNING SAFE REENTRY
18 THROUGH WORK ACT; AND TO CREATE A
19 SENTENCE CREDIT PROGRAM FOR A PERSON ON
20 PROBATION, PAROLE, OR POST-RELEASE
21 SUPERVISION TO EARN TIME CREDITS THROUGH
22 EMPLOYMENT; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.
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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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26 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Title.

27 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Earning Safe Reentry
28 Through Work Act".
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30 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 16, Chapter 93, Subchapter 1, is
31 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

32 16-93-112. Earning Safe Reentry Through Work Act.

33 (a) As used in this section:

34 (1) "Eligible employment" means any occupation or combination of
35 occupations for which a supervised offender can provide documentation of
36 verifiable wage-earning hours in the amount of at least one hundred and



1 thirty (130) hours per thirty-day period;

2 (2) "Supervised offender" means an individual on probation,
3 parole, or post-release supervision under the supervision of the Division of
4 Community Correction;

5 (3) "Supporting documentation" means an employment record, pay
6 stub, employment letter, contract, or other similarly reliable method of
7 employment verification, as determined by the Division of Community
8 Correction;

9 (4) "Work-for-time credit" means a credit that is equal to a one
10 (1) day reduction in a supervised offender's sentence that can be accrued for
11 maintaining eligible employment; and

12 (5) "Working days" means a business day that does not include
13 Saturday, Sunday, or a state or federal holiday.

14 (b) Each supervised offender who maintains eligible employment shall
15 accrue work-for-time credits under the following conditions:

16 (1) The supervised offender shall provide supporting
17 documentation of eligible employment to the community supervision officer
18 responsible for the supervised offender's supervision within five (5) working
19 days of the conclusion of each thirty (30) day period in which the offender
20 maintains eligible employment;

21 (2)(A) The community supervision officer shall verify the
22 supervised offender's eligible employment through the supervised offender's
23 supporting documentation and any other means that the division determines
24 necessary.

25 (B) The community supervision officer shall enter the
26 supporting documentation into and record the supervised offender's accrual of
27 all work-for-time credits in the supervised offender's file within five (5)
28 working days of verifying the supervised offender's eligible employment;

29 (3) A supervised offender, including a person who is being
30 supervised in another state, shall accrue five (5) work-for-time credits for
31 every thirty-day-period in which the offender maintains eligible employment,
32 except for the sixty-day-period immediately prior to the supervised
33 offender's adjusted sentence end date during which no work-for-time credits
34 shall accrue;

35 (4) If the supervised offender's probation, parole, or post-
36 release supervision is revoked or if the supervised offender is convicted of

1 a new criminal offense, the supervised offender forfeits all work-for-time
2 credits previously accrued; and

3 (5)(A) A supervised offender shall not receive a work-for-time
4 credit if the offender's supporting documentation is unverifiable,
5 inaccurate, or absent from his or her file.

6 (B) If a request for a work-for-time credit is denied, the
7 community supervision officer shall record the reason for the denial of the
8 work-for-time credit in the supervised offender's file.

9 (b) The community supervision officer responsible for supervising a
10 supervised offender who accrues work-for-time credits shall notify the
11 sentencing court of the supervised offender's accrual of work-for-time
12 credits no less than sixty (60) days in advance of the supervised offender's
13 adjusted sentence end date, which includes the accrual of work-for-time
14 credits up to the date of the notification.

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16 SECTION 4. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
17 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that recidivism threatens the
18 safety of the state; that incentivizing a person on probation, parole, and
19 post-release supervision will reduce the risk of recidivism; and that this
20 act is immediately necessary to reduce the risk of recidivism and provide for
21 the efficient and effective allocation of supervision services. Therefore, an
22 emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for
23 the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become
24 effective on:

25 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

26 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
27 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
28 bill; or

29 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
30 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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