

1 State of Arkansas  
2 93rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2021  
4

*As Engrossed: S10/4/21*

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 730

5 By: Senator T. Garner  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO AMEND THE DIVISION OF WORKFORCE SERVICES  
9 LAW; TO AMEND THE LAW REGARDING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS  
10 TO AUTHORIZE UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR AN INDIVIDUAL  
11 WHO IS TERMINATED SOLELY DUE TO A REFUSAL TO BE  
12 VACCINATED AGAINST CORONAVIRUS 2019 (COVID-19); TO  
13 DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

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17 TO AMEND THE DIVISION OF WORKFORCE  
18 SERVICES LAW TO AUTHORIZE UNEMPLOYMENT  
19 BENEFITS FOR AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS  
20 TERMINATED SOLELY DUE TO A REFUSAL TO BE  
21 VACCINATED AGAINST CORONAVIRUS 2019  
22 (COVID-19); AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.  
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25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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27 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 11-10-513(b), concerning the exceptions  
28 from disqualification for unemployment benefits due to voluntarily leaving  
29 work, is amended to read as follows:

30 (b) ~~No~~ An individual shall not be disqualified under this section if  
31 after making reasonable efforts to preserve his or her job rights he or she  
32 left his or her last work:

33 (1) Due to a personal emergency of such nature and compelling  
34 urgency that it would be contrary to good conscience to impose a  
35 disqualification;

36 (2)(A) Because of illness, injury, pregnancy, or disability of



1 the individual or a member of the individual's immediate family.

2 (B) As used in subdivision (b)(2)(A) of this section,  
3 "immediate family member" means a spouse, child, parent, brother, sister,  
4 grandchild, or grandparent of the individual;

5 (3)(A) Due to domestic violence that causes the individual  
6 reasonably to believe that the individual's continued employment will  
7 jeopardize the safety of the individual or a member of the individual's  
8 immediate family.

9 (B) As used in subdivision (b)(3)(A) of this section,  
10 "immediate family member" means a spouse, child, parent, brother, sister,  
11 grandchild, or grandparent of the individual; ~~or~~

12 (4) To accompany the individual's spouse because of a change in  
13 the location of the spouse's employment that makes it impractical to commute;  
14 or

15 (5) Due to a refusal by the individual to be vaccinated against  
16 coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) or its variants.

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18 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 11-10-514, concerning disqualification for  
19 unemployment benefits generally due to discharge for misconduct, is amended  
20 to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

21 (d) An individual shall not be disqualified for benefits if he or she  
22 is terminated solely due to a refusal to be vaccinated against coronavirus  
23 2019 (COVID-19) or its variants.

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25 SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
26 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that employees in Arkansas are  
27 being terminated solely due to a refusal to be vaccinated against coronavirus  
28 2019 (COVID-19); that the termination leaves these employees with no income  
29 to support themselves and their families; and that immediate action is  
30 necessary in order to protect Arkansas employees from the effects of these  
31 vaccination mandates. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this  
32 act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace,  
33 health, and safety shall become effective on:

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

35 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,  
36 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the

1 bill; or

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

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5 /s/T. Garner  
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