HB6

186661-2

By Representatives Hanes and Whorton (R)

RFD: State Government

First Read: 09-JAN-18

PFD: 07/24/2017
SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, in certain circumstances, a state may request a waiver from the U.S. Department of Agriculture of the work requirements that an able-bodied adult without dependents must comply with in order to receive assistance from the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP).

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

This bill would require all able-bodied adults without dependents who are applicants or recipients of SNAP benefits to participate in minimum work requirements, provide documentation of engaging in work training, or participate in volunteer community service and would provide limited exemptions from these work requirements.
A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to federal assistance; to prohibit the Commissioner of the Department of Human Resources from requesting a waiver of federal work requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents who are applicants or recipients of the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP); and to require all able-bodied adults without dependents who are applicants or recipients of SNAP benefits to participate in minimum work requirements, provide documentation of engaging in work training, or participate in volunteer community service and to provide limited exemptions from these work requirements.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

(b) The Commissioner of the Department of Human Resources is prohibited from requesting a waiver of federal work requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents who are applicants or recipients of the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP).
(c) The Department of Human Resources may not award SNAP benefits to an applicant for or recipient of SNAP benefits who is an able-bodied adult without dependents unless the applicant or recipient meets one of the following requirements:

(1) Works at least 20 hours per week, averaged monthly.

(2) Provides documentation that the applicant is taking reasonable, goal-orientated measures on an ongoing basis to achieve short or long-term employment, that may include, but not be limited to, enrollment in an education program such as high school equivalency preparation or prevocational training, job counseling, or job skills training such as customized occupational training or general skills training.

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

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

(e) An individual recipient of SNAP benefits who is an able-bodied adult without dependents subject to the requirements of this section who then loses his or her job or
volunteer community service position shall remain eligible to receive SNAP benefits, if otherwise eligible, for an additional period of three consecutive months without working or participating in volunteer community service. This additional three-month period of eligibility is available to an able-bodied adult without dependents only once in any 36-month period.

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