

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

3 SENATE BILL 1756

By: Kirt

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to employment assistance; creating
8 program for unemployed workers; authorizing Oklahoma
9 Employment Security Commission to implement program;
10 providing eligibility requirements; authorizing
11 Commission to provide assistance; providing for
12 Commission administration in coordination with
13 certain groups; authorizing Executive Director to use
14 funds for implementing the program; creating
15 revolving fund; providing for use of funds; providing
16 for codification; and providing an effective date.

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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

19 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
20 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 4-320 of Title 40, unless there
21 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

22 A. There is hereby established a Jobseeker's Assistance Program
23 to provide a weekly cash benefit and intensive employment services
24 to new labor market entrants, reentrants, workers who have exhausted
unemployment insurance, verified self-employed workers, and
intermittent workers with limited resources. The program shall be
under the supervision and control of the Oklahoma Employment
Security Commission (OESC).

1 B. Applicants eligible to receive assistance pursuant to this
2 act shall:

- 3 1. Be at least Twenty-four (24) years of age;
- 4 2. Hold a GED or high school diploma;
- 5 3. Have been determined ineligible to receive unemployment
6 insurance by OESC; and
- 7 4. Earn an annual household income below the Social Security
8 maximum taxable earnings for the year in which benefits are
9 received.

10 C. Subject to approval by OESC, applicants eligible pursuant to
11 subsection B of this section may receive:

- 12 1. A weekly benefit amount, if currently unemployed equal to
13 half of the average weekly unemployment benefit or the tenth
14 percentile of the average Oklahoma wage, whichever is higher, in a
15 manner prescribed by OESC;
- 16 2. Employment services including, but not limited to, skills
17 and training options.

18 D. The establishment of this program shall be administrated by
19 the Executive Director of the Commission in coordination with the
20 Department of Human Services and the Oklahoma Office of Workforce
21 Development.

22 E. The Executive Director of the Commission shall allocate
23 funds from the revolving fund created in Section 2 of this act to
24 provide services and benefits pursuant to this act to approved

1 eligible applicants in this state to the extent that funds are
2 available from the fund. The Commission shall be responsible for
3 allocating these funds through contracts with eligible regional,
4 statewide, or federal organizations, legislative appropriations, or
5 state or federal grants which ordinarily provide unemployment
6 services.

7 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
8 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 4-321 of Title 40, unless there
9 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

10 A. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving
11 fund for the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission, to be
12 designated the "Jobseeker's Assistance Revolving Fund". The fund
13 shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations,
14 and shall consist of all monies received by the Oklahoma Employment
15 Security Commissions and apportioned to such fund pursuant to the
16 provisions of Section 1 of this act and such other monies accredited
17 to the fund pursuant to law.

18 B. All monies accruing to the credit of the fund are hereby
19 appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the Oklahoma
20 Employment Security Commission for the purpose of implementing the
21 provisions of Section 1 of this act.

22 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2022.
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