

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 February 19, 2026

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
4 FOR

5 SENATE BILL NO. 1277

By: Alvord of the Senate

and

Hill of the House

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9 An Act relating to employment benefits; amending 40
10 O.S. 2021, Section 2-417, as amended by Section 1,
11 Chapter 309, O.S.L. 2024 (40 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section
12 2-417), which relates to disqualification; modifying
13 conditions for disqualification for certain benefits;
14 specifying acceptable work search actions; updating
15 statutory language; and providing an effective date.

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

17 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 40 O.S. 2021, Section 2-417, as
18 amended by Section 1, Chapter 309, O.S.L. 2024 (40 O.S. Supp. 2025,
19 Section 2-417), is amended to read as follows:

20 Section 2-417.

21 SEEK AND ACCEPT WORK - WEEK OF OCCURRENCE DISQUALIFICATION.

22 A. An individual shall be disqualified to receive benefits for
23 each week in which the individual shall have failed to do any of the
24 following:

1 1. Diligently search for suitable employment at a pay rate
2 generally available in that area of the state in keeping with his or
3 her prior experience, education and training; or

4 ~~2. Make application for the minimum number of weekly work~~
5 ~~search efforts as required by the Oklahoma Employment Security~~
6 ~~Commission; or~~

7 ~~3. Present oneself as an applicant for employment in a manner~~
8 ~~designed to encourage favorable employment consideration~~ Conduct
9 three weekly search actions, or more if required by the Oklahoma
10 Employment Security Commission based on economic or geographic
11 factors.

12 B. Acceptable work search actions shall be determined by the
13 Commission and shall include, but not be limited to:

14 1. Submitting a resume to an employer;

15 2. Completing and submitting a job application to an employer;

16 3. Attending and completing an interview with an employer;

17 4. Participating in a work-related networking event sponsored
18 by the Commission such as a job club or fair, industry association
19 event, or networking group;

20 5. Participating in reemployment services offered to the
21 claimant by the Commission or any other state employment service;

22 6. Participating in a volunteer training opportunity likely to
23 lead to paid employment;

24 7. Taking a civil service exam for work in a government agency;

1 8. Developing or uploading a complete resume in the state's
2 employment service system for the purpose of obtaining employment;

3 or

4 9. Any other work search activities prescribed by the
5 Commission.

6 ~~B.~~ C. The requirements of subsection A of this section shall be
7 waived if the individual has been summoned to appear for jury duty
8 before any court of the United States or of any state. The waiver
9 ~~will~~ shall continue for as long as the individual remains on jury
10 duty pursuant to the original summons.

11 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2026.

12 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND INSURANCE
13 February 19, 2026 - DO PASS AS AMENDED BY CS

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