

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

SENATE BILL 1277

By: Alvord

AS INTRODUCED

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

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

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

Section 2-417.

SEEK AND ACCEPT WORK - WEEK OF OCCURRENCE DISQUALIFICATION.

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

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

1       2. ~~Make application for the minimum number of weekly work~~  
2 ~~search efforts as required by the Oklahoma Employment Security~~  
3 ~~Commission~~ Conduct five (5) weekly search actions; or

4       3. Present oneself as an applicant for employment in a manner  
5 designed to encourage favorable employment consideration.

6       B. The following actions shall be deemed acceptable work search  
7 actions:

8       1. Submitting a resume to an employer;

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

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

11       4. Attending a job fair;

12       5. Completing an online or in-person job search workshop, job  
13 club, or job search networking meeting;

14       6. Completing a job search assessment including, but not  
15 limited to, a personality, skills, or interests assessment;

16       7. Completing career direction research or work, such as a job  
17 search plan or a targeted employer list;

18       8. Completing job search branding and marketing activities such  
19 as completing a resume, cover letter, master application, elevator  
20 pitch, or LinkedIn profile, and uploading a completed resume to a  
21 job board allowing visibility to employers;

22       9. Participating in a volunteer or on-the-job training  
23 opportunity likely to lead to paid employment;

24       10. Completing an online or in-person mock interview;

1 11. Participating in job search counseling;

2 12. Completing an activity with an online job search tool;

3 13. Taking a civil service exam;

4 14. Reviewing job opening suggestions; or

5 15. Developing a complete resume in the state's employment  
6 service system.

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

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

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