

1 SB171
2 155854-1
3 By Senator Fielding
4 RFD: Fiscal Responsibility and Accountability
5 First Read: 14-JAN-14

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, a person receiving
9 unemployment compensation is not required to
10 perform community service.

11 This bill would require each person
12 receiving unemployment compensation to perform
13 community service.

14 This bill would provide that any person
15 receiving unemployment compensation who does not
16 perform community service shall be ineligible to
17 receive the compensation.

18 This bill would provide procedures and
19 exceptions for such mandatory community service
20 programs to be developed by the Alabama Department
21 of Labor in conjunction with the Alabama Department
22 of Human Resources.

23
24 A BILL
25 TO BE ENTITLED
26 AN ACT
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1 Relating to unemployment compensation; to require
2 each person receiving unemployment compensation to perform
3 community service; to provide that any person receiving
4 unemployment compensation who does not perform community
5 service shall be ineligible to receive the compensation; and
6 to provide procedures and exceptions for the mandatory
7 community service programs to be developed by the Alabama
8 Department of Labor in conjunction with the Alabama Department
9 of Human Resources.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

11 Section 1. As used in this act, the term
12 "department" shall mean the Alabama Department of Labor.

13 Section 2. (a) Except where exempted by federal law,
14 on and after July 1, 2015, each person receiving unemployment
15 compensation shall be required to participate in a community
16 service program administered by the department.

17 (b) The department, in conjunction with the Alabama
18 Department of Human Resources shall establish and administer a
19 community service program with the standards and procedures
20 deemed necessary to accomplish the requirements of this
21 section. The department shall establish a minimum number of
22 hours of regulated community service to be required for each
23 person receiving unemployment compensation, which shall be a
24 minimum of 16 hours of community service per week for each
25 person. The department, on a monthly basis, shall issue a list
26 of nonprofit 501(c)(3) programs which are eligible for
27 community service work required under this section. No

1 eligible nonprofit program shall be required to accept a
2 person receiving unemployment compensation for community
3 service but shall be encouraged to do so. Volunteer service at
4 a public or private school shall qualify for mandatory
5 community service required under this section. Volunteer
6 service at a church where the person receiving unemployment
7 compensation is a member shall not qualify for mandatory
8 community service required under this section. The department
9 shall issue regulations prescribing forms and procedures for
10 the verification of community service required by the person
11 receiving unemployment compensation.

12 (c) A person receiving unemployment compensation who
13 does not comply with the mandatory community service required
14 shall be ineligible to receive the benefits for a period of
15 time to be enforced by the department granting the benefits as
16 follows:

17 (1) For the first noncompliance, a period of 30
18 days.

19 (2) For the second noncompliance, a period of 60
20 days.

21 (3) For the third and subsequent noncompliance, a
22 period of one year, after which time the person shall be
23 required to submit to a mandatory community service program
24 before he or she shall be eligible to receive unemployment
25 compensation.

26 (d) A recipient who receives federal, state, or
27 local public benefits who refuses to submit to the mandatory

1 community service program shall be ineligible to receive the
2 benefits for a period of one year.

3 (e) This section shall be enforced without regard to
4 race, religion, gender, ethnicity, or national origin.

5 (f) The provisions of this section shall be
6 implemented after the date the department has received all
7 federal waivers that are necessary to implement the provisions
8 of this section from the United States Department of Health
9 and Human Services.

10 Section 3. This act shall become effective on the
11 first day of the third month following its passage and
12 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.