Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

Act 515 of the Regular Session

1	State of Arkansas	A D:11	
2	86th General Assembly	A Bill	
3	Regular Session, 2007		SENATE BILL 704
4			
5	By: Senator Steele		
6			
7			
8	For An Act To Be Entitled		
9	AN ACT REQUIRING USE OF RESPECTFUL LANGUAGE IN		
10	THE ARKANSAS CODE REGARDING PERSONS WITH		
11	DISABILITIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.		
12			
13		Subtitle	
14	AN ACT RE	QUIRING USE OF RESPECTFUL	
15	LANGUAGE IN THE ARKANSAS CODE REGARDING		
16	INDIVIDUA	LS WITH DISABILITIES.	
17			
18			
19	BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERA	AL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE O	F ARKANSAS:
20			
21	SECTION 1. Arkansas	Code Title 1, Chapter 2, S	ubchapter l is amended to
22	add an additional section to read as follows:		
23	1-2-124. Respectful	language — Disabilities.	
24	(a)(1) The General A	Assembly recognizes that l	anguage used in reference
25	to individuals with disabi	lities shapes and reflects	society's attitudes
26	towards people with disabi	lities. Many of the terms	currently used demean the
27	humanity and natural condi-	tion of having a disabilit	y. Certain terms are
28	demeaning and create an in	visible barrier to inclusi	on as equal community
29	members.		
30	(2) The Genera	al Assembly finds it neces	sary to clarify preferred
31	language for new and revise	ed laws by requiring the u	se of terminology that
32	puts the person before the	disability.	
33	(b)(l) In any bill (or resolution, the Bureau	of Legislative Research
34	shall avoid all references	to:	
35	(A) "Dis	sabled";	



1	(b) "Developmentally disabled";		
2	(C) "Mentally disabled";		
3	(D) "Mentally ill";		
4	(E) "Mentally retarded";		
5	(F) "Handicapped";		
6	(G) "Cripple"; and		
7	(H) "Crippled".		
8	(2) The Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall change such		
9	references in any existing statute or resolution as sections including these		
10	references are republished or otherwise amended by law.		
11	(3) The Bureau of Legislative Research and the Arkansas Code		
12	Revision Commission shall replace the in appropriate terms in subdivision		
13	(b)(l) of this section a with the following terms:		
14	(A) "Individuals with disabilities";		
15	(B) "Individuals with developmental disabilities";		
16	(C) "Individuals with mental illness";		
17	(D) "Individuals with mental retardation;" and		
18	(E) "Individuals with intellectual disabilities".		
19	(c) A statute or resolution is not invalid because it does not comply		
20	with this section.		
21			
22	SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General		
23	Assembly of the State of Arkansas that persons with disabilities and their		
24	families should be provided with meaningful opportunities to contribute their		
25	perspectives through their experiences concerning issues relating to		
26	services, support, and standards that ultimately affect them; that they are		
27	at risk every day that their needs and aspirations go unheard. Therefore, an		
28	emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for		
29	the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become		
30	effective on:		
31	(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;		
32	(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,		
33	the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the		
34 25	bill; or		
35	(3) If the bill is vetoed by the		
36	Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the		

1 <u>veto.</u> APPROVED: 3/28/2007