

Stricken language would be deleted from present law. Underlined language would be added to present law.

1 State of Arkansas
2 81st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1997
4

As Engrossed: H3/26/97

A Bill

ACT 1159 OF 1997
HOUSE BILL 2206

5 By: Representatives Judy Smith, Flanagan, Molinaro, Pollan, Bennett, and Roberts
6 By: Senators Bradford, Walker, and Ross
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE UNWED BIRTH AND TEENAGE PREGNANCY
10 PREVENTION PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH; AND FOR
11 OTHER PURPOSES."

Subtitle

14 "TO ESTABLISH THE UNWED BIRTH AND
15 TEENAGE PREGNANCY PREVENTION PROGRAM."
16

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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19 SECTION 1. The General Assembly finds that:

20 (1) The number of births to unwed women and to teenage parents has
21 increased in our country and state during the past 50 years;

22 (2) There were 11,403 unwed births in Arkansas in 1991, which represent
23 32.4% of all births in the State;

24 (3) There were 4,487 unwed births to teenagers in Arkansas in 1995,
25 which represent 39.3% of all unmarried births in the State;

26 (4) Unwed births and teenage pregnancy are problems which have
27 tremendous financial and human consequences for present and future
28 generations, and prevention programs can serve as the basis for welfare reform
29 efforts by reducing the number of persons in need of public assistance;

30 (5) A comprehensive program to reduce the number of unwed births and
31 teenage pregnancies, which includes local initiatives developed by community
32 coalitions, should be coordinated at the State level.
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34 SECTION 2. (a) The Department of Health shall be designated to
35 coordinate interagency efforts and to serve as the administrative and fiscal
36 agent of the Unwed Birth and Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Program. The

1 program shall involve a multi-faceted approach to the problems associated with
2 unwed births and teenage pregnancies, which is sensitive to community needs
3 and values, and shall provide a state level steering committee, abstinence
4 education initiatives, family planning services, a comprehensive media
5 campaign, grants to local communities, and program evaluation.

6 (b) State agencies that provide services to unwed mothers, teenage
7 parents, and teenagers shall cooperate in administering the program with the
8 Department of Health and the joint legislative oversight subcommittees of
9 HCR 1010 of 1997.

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11 SECTION 3. Legislative oversight of program activities shall be
12 provided in the manner described in HCR 1010 of 1997. The joint legislative
13 oversight subcommittees of HCR 1010 shall distribute to local communities any
14 unwed birth reduction funds awarded to the State under the Personal
15 Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996.

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17 SECTION 4. The provisions of this act shall automatically expire on
18 July 1, 1999 unless extended by an act of the legislature.

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20 SECTION 5. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
21 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
22 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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24 SECTION 6. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
25 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
26 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
27 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
28 act are declared to be severable.

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30 SECTION 7. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
31 hereby repealed.

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/s/Rep. Judy Smith et al

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APPROVED:4-07-97