

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2015-146

REQUESTING THAT THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL REFER TO THE  
HIGHER EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
A REQUEST TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS,  
PREVENTION, AND RESPONSE ON THE FOUR-YEAR AND TWO-YEAR COLLEGE  
AND UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES IN ARKANSAS.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly has an obligation to ensure that our  
colleges and universities keep our students safe; and

WHEREAS, sexual assaults and attempted sexual assaults occur on  
campuses large and small, urban and rural, private and public; and

WHEREAS, a June 2015 poll by the Washington Post and the Kaiser Family  
Foundation found that twenty percent (20%) of college women and five percent  
(5%) of college men surveyed reported having been sexually assaulted; and

WHEREAS, a February 2015 report by the Journal of Adolescent Health  
found that nineteen percent (19%) of college women reported being a victim of  
attempted or completed rape, either by force or while they were incapacitated  
due to alcohol or drugs, during their freshman year; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of Education,  
reports of forcible sex offenses on college campuses increased by eighty-four  
percent (84%) from 2009 to 2013; and

WHEREAS, as of May 2014, fifty-five (55) colleges and universities in  
the United States were under investigation by the United States Department of  
Education for possible violations of Title IX in their handling of sexual  
assault cases; and

WHEREAS, the number of colleges and universities in the United States  
under investigation by the Department of Education for possible violations of  
Title IX in their handling of sexual assault cases stood at one hundred  
twenty-four (124) as of July 2015; and

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2       WHEREAS, while the forty-six (46) college and university campuses in  
3 Arkansas are not among the college and universities currently under  
4 investigation, it is critical that the Arkansas General Assembly ensure that  
5 our state's colleges and universities provide safe, secure campuses and  
6 properly respond to any sexual assault;  
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8       NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROPOSED BY THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF  
9 THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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11       THAT the Arkansas Legislative Council refer to the Higher Education  
12 Subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Council a request to conduct a study  
13 of sexual assault awareness, prevention, and response on the four-year and  
14 two-year college campuses in Arkansas.  
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16       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT by July 1, 2017, the study be completed and  
17 a report presented to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the  
18 President Pro Tempore of the Senate.  
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20 Respectfully submitted,  
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24 Representative Greg Leding  
25 District 86  
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28 By: MBM/KFW  
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