

1 **State of Arkansas**
2 **78th General Assembly**
3 **Regular Session, 1991**
4 **By: Representative Mahony**

A Bill

HOUSE BILL

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AN EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENING PROGRAM
9 TO BE KNOWN AS THE PRE-KINDERGARTEN PREPARATORY PROGRAM IN
10 THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION; TO REQUIRE ASSISTANCE OF
11 SCHOOL DISTRICTS, CHILD CARE FACILITIES, AND OTHER
12 ENTITIES TO IMPLEMENT DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING AND PARENT
13 EDUCATION FOR THE PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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17 SECTION 1. PURPOSE. In recognition of the need for proper early
18 educational, physical, and mental development among children three (3) and
19 four (4) years of age, it is the intent of the General Assembly to provide
20 state funding to school districts, child care facilities, Head Start programs,
21 HIPPIY programs, and other entities authorized by the State Department of
22 Education, to provide identification of children ages three (3) and four (4)
23 who are at risk of not performing at a kindergarten level and to provide to
24 the school districts educational services for those children. It is further
25 the intent of the General Assembly to assist these children through the
26 provision of parent education services.

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28 SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS.

29 (1) "Developmental screening" means the process of measuring the
30 progress of children to determine if there are problems or potential problems
31 in the areas of understanding and use of language, perception through sight,
32 perception through hearing, motor development and hand-eye coordination,
33 health, and physical development.

34 (2) "Parent education" means the provision of resource materials on
35 home learning activities, private and group educational guidance, individual

1 and group learning experiences for the parent and child, and other activities
2 that enable the parent to improve learning in the home.

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4 SECTION 3. (a) There is established within the State Department of
5 Education a Pre-Kindergarten Preparatory Program.

6 (b) The Pre-Kindergarten Preparatory Program shall have the following
7 responsibilities:

8 (1) To identify through developmental screening those children
9 ages three (3) and four (4) who are at risk of not being developmentally
10 capable of performing on a kindergarten level;

11 (2) To offer readiness skills services to these at-risk children;
12 and

13 (3) To provide parent education services to parents of at-risk
14 children so identified.

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16 SECTION 4. (a) All child care facilities licensed pursuant to Ark.
17 Code 20-78-201 et seq., Head Start Centers, and HIPPIY programs operated by a
18 school district shall assist in the implementation of this program as
19 administered by the State Department of Education.

20 (b) All public school districts shall assist in the implementation of
21 this program as administered by the State Department of Education to children
22 not enrolled in child care facilities or Head Start centers.

23 (c) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the State Board
24 of Health, the Division of Children and Family Services of the Department of
25 Human Services, the Division of Economic and Medical Services of the
26 Department of Human Services, the Division of Developmental Disabilities of
27 the Department of Human Services, the Child Care Facility Review Board, and
28 the Arkansas Early Childhood Commission, is authorized to issue regulations
29 for implementation of the provisions of this act.

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

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35 SECTION 6. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to

1 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
2 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
3 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
4 act are declared to be severable.

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

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