

1 **State of Arkansas**  
2 **79th General Assembly**  
3 **Regular Session, 1993**

# A Bill

**HOUSE BILL**

4 **By: Representatives Smith and Steele**

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## **For An Act To Be Entitled**

8 "AN ACT TO REQUIRE PROPER PLANNING OF CHILD WELFARE REFORM  
9 BY ENSURING MAXIMUM UTILIZATION OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES;  
10 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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## **Subtitle**

13 "TO REQUIRE PROPER PLANNING OF CHILD WELFARE REFORM."

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

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17 SECTION 1. The General Assembly finds that the requirements with which  
18 the state must comply pursuant to the consent decree from Angela R., et al. v.  
19 Bill Clinton, et al. and the Arkansas Child Welfare Reform Document demand  
20 close observation and study; that the future of the State's children and youth  
21 relies heavily on compliance with the decree; that the financial security of  
22 the State is in jeopardy if the State has difficulty or is unable to comply  
23 with the consent decree because of the voluminous number of lawsuits that  
24 could ensue; that the State has a responsibility to protect children and youth  
25 from harm and ensure their healthy development; that the Child Welfare  
26 Compliance and Oversight Committee will cease to exist on December 31, 1994;  
27 that in order to protect the interests of the State, it is crucial that  
28 oversight of child welfare issues continue; that oversight by a committee that  
29 focuses specifically on problems relating to children and youth would be the  
30 most advantageous manner of monitoring compliance with the consent decree and  
31 related problems. Therefore, it is declared to be the intent of the  
32 legislature to require the Joint Committee on Children and Youth to monitor  
33 compliance with the consent decree, to report annually regarding compliance  
34 and to review all bills pertaining to the safety, health, mental health,  
35 development and problems of children and youth.

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SECTION 2. The Joint Committee on Children and Youth shall make a report at least annually regarding the State's compliance with the Arkansas Child Welfare Reform Document and review all bills pertaining to the safety, health, mental health, development and problems of children and youth. The report shall be made available to all members of the General Assembly.

SECTION 3. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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

SECTION 5. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

SECTION 6. EMERGENCY. It is hereby found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that it is necessary for the Joint Committee on Children and Youth to have ample time to prepare for taking over the duties relating to oversight of the Arkansas Child Welfare Reform Document and the Angela R., et al. v. Bill Clinton, et al. consent decree. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

