

1 **State of Arkansas**
2 **79th General Assembly**
3 **Regular Session, 1993**
4 **By: Representative Jones and Pollan**

H.R.

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7 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

8 REQUESTING THE JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND
9 YOUTH TO CONDUCT A STUDY REGARDING THE OUT-OF-STATE
10 PLACEMENT FOR TREATMENT OF EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED CHILDREN
11 TO DETERMINE IF THE CHILDREN ARE BEING PLACED
12 APPROPRIATELY.

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14 **Subtitle**

15 REQUESTING A STUDY REGARDING THE OUT-OF-STATE PLACEMENT OF
16 EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED CHILDREN FOR TREATMENT.

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18 WHEREAS, in 1992, approximately one hundred eighty-two (182) emotionally
19 disturbed children from Arkansas received treatment in out-of-state facilities
20 for a total of nine thousand eight hundred ninety-eight (9,898) patient days;
21 and

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23 WHEREAS, there are currently fifteen (15) emotionally disturbed children
24 from Arkansas placed for treatment in facilities in California; and

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26 WHEREAS, in certain areas of the state, a higher number of these
27 children are placed out-of-state; and

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29 WHEREAS, the number of emotionally disturbed children placed out-of-
30 state for treatment has risen significantly in the past few years; and

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32 WHEREAS, Arkansas Code Annotated 20-46-106 states that it is the intent
33 of the Legislature that out-of-state placements for emotionally disturbed
34 children only be considered only in the event that all other alternatives have
35 been exhausted; and

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WHEREAS, the state has a responsibility to ensure that these children are appropriately placed for treatment, especially since the Medicaid program is involved;

NOW THEREFORE,
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SEVENTY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

That the Joint Interim Committee is requested to conduct a study regarding the out of state placement for treatment of emotionally disturbed children to determine if these children are being appropriately placed. The study shall address the following:

- (1) The reasons the children are being placed out-of-state;
- (2) The adequacy and availability of appropriate services within the state;
- (3) The persons or entities referring the children out-of-state for treatment and the motivation for such referrals;
- (4) The impact of out of state placement on the well-being of the child; and
- (5) The difference in cost to the Medicaid program between in-state placements and out-of-state placements.

If the study reveals any problems, recommendations should be developed to correct the problems in order to ensure that Arkansas_ emotionally disturbed children are receiving the best treatment possible at a cost which is reasonable to the state.

