

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 84th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2003
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2442

5 By: Representative Dickinson
6 By: Senator J. Jeffress
7
8

For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO REQUIRE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO DEVELOP
11 POLICIES TO PROHIBIT SCHOOL PERSONNEL FROM
12 RECOMMENDING THE USE OF PSYCHOTROPIC PRESCRIPTION
13 DRUGS; TO LIMIT PERSONNEL WHO MAY RECOMMEND
14 TESTING FOR CERTAIN BEHAVIORAL DISORDERS; AND FOR
15 OTHER PURPOSES.
16

Subtitle

17 TO REQUIRE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO DEVELOP
18 POLICIES TO PROHIBIT SCHOOL PERSONNEL
19 FROM RECOMMENDING THE USE OF
20 PSYCHOTROPIC PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND TO
21 LIMIT WHO MAY RECOMMEND TESTING FOR
22 CERTAIN BEHAVIORAL DISORDERS.
23
24
25

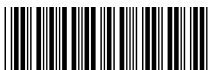
26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
27

28 SECTION 1. (a) The General Assembly finds that:

29 (1) A great many school-age children in Arkansas are taking
30 psychotropic drugs to control behavioral problems;

31 (2) There are documented incidents of highly negative
32 consequences in which psychotropic prescription drugs have been used for what
33 are essentially problems in discipline that may be related to lack of
34 academic success;

35 (3) The National Institutes of Health Consensus Development
36 Panel reported that stimulant drugs such as methylphenidate (Ritalin) result



1 in “little improvement in academic or social skills”;

2 (4) School districts must be ever vigilant to ensure that
3 parents are not encouraged by school personnel to resort to unnecessary use
4 of psychotropic prescription drugs to resolve problems in discipline.

5 (b) The board of directors of each school district shall develop
6 policies:

7 (1) To prohibit school personnel from recommending the use of
8 psychotropic prescription drugs for a child;

9 (2) To prohibit school personnel without proper medical training
10 from recommending that a child be tested for attention deficit disorder,
11 hyperactivity disorder, or both; and

12 (3) To encourage school personnel to discuss concerns about a
13 child’s behavior with the parent or legal guardian of the child and the
14 discussions may include a suggestion by school personnel that the parent or
15 legal guardian speak with an appropriate health care professional.

16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36