

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

As Engrossed: H3/25/03 H4/1/03

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2893

5 By: Representatives J. Johnson, Mahony, C. Johnson, White, Bradford, Dangeau, Pickett, Elliott
6 By: Senator Gullett
7
8

For An Act To Be Entitled

9
10 AN ACT TO CREATE A HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE; TO
11 COORDINATE EFFORTS TO COMBAT THE EFFECTS OF
12 INADEQUATE HEALTH CARE ON THE EDUCATIONAL
13 PERFORMANCE OF CHILDREN IN ARKANSAS SCHOOL
14 SYSTEMS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
15

Subtitle

16
17 AN ACT TO CREATE A HEALTH ADVISORY
18 COMMITTEE; TO COORDINATE EFFORTS TO
19 COMBAT INADEQUATE HEALTH CARE ON THE
20 EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE OF CHILDREN.
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 36, is amended to add an
26 additional subchapter to read as follows:

27 20-36-101. Findings - Purpose.

28 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

29 (1) Adequate health care for school age children is an important
30 component in maximizing their educational opportunities and classroom
31 performance so that children may obtain an adequate education; and

32 (2) There is a need for a study to be conducted to evaluate
33 health care for school age children and to develop a strategic statewide plan
34 regarding the needs and solutions to health problems of school age children.

35 (b) The purposes of this subchapter are to:

36 (1) Create a committee to conduct a study to evaluate health



1 care for school age children; and

2 (2) Develop findings and make recommendations to the Joint
3 Committee on Educational Adequacy, the House and Senate Interim Committees on
4 Public Health, Welfare, and Labor, the General Assembly, and the Governor.

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6 20-36-102. Health Adequacy Advisory Committee.

7 (a)(1) There is established the Legislative Health Adequacy Committee
8 consisting of twenty-two (22) members.

9 (2) The following members shall be appointed by the Joint
10 Committee on Educational Adequacy by a majority of a quorum:

11 (A) One (1) member who is a pediatrician;

12 (B) One (1) member who is a school nurse who is currently
13 working in a public elementary school in this state;

14 (C) One (1) school nurse who is currently working in a
15 public junior or high school in this state;

16 (D) One (1) member currently practicing dentistry in this
17 state;

18 (E) One (1) member currently working as a classroom
19 teacher in a public elementary school in this state who is a member of the
20 Arkansas Education Association;

21 (F) One (1) member to represent the Arkansas Minority
22 Health Commission; and

23 (G) One (1) member to represent the community health
24 agencies.

25 (3) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint
26 one (1) member currently working as a principal of a public elementary
27 school.

28 (4) The Present Pro Tempore of the Senate shall appoint one (1)
29 member currently working as a teacher in a public elementary school.

30 (5) The chairperson of the House Interim Committee on Public
31 Health, Welfare, and Labor shall appoint one (1) member who has a child in a
32 public school in this state.

33 (6) The chairperson of the Senate Interim Committee on Public
34 Health, Welfare, and Labor shall appoint one (1) member who has a child in a
35 public school in this state.

36 (7) The Director of the Department of Health shall appoint:

- 1 (A) One (1) member to represent the Department of Health;
2 (B) One (1) member to represent the Arkansas Academy of
3 Pediatrics;
4 (C) One (1) member to represent the Arkansas Academy of
5 Family Practice;
6 (D) One (1) member to represent the Arkansas School of
7 Public Health of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences;
8 (E) One (1) member to represent the Arkansas Center for
9 Health Improvement; and
10 (F) One (1) member to represent the Arkansas Advocates for
11 Children and Families.
- 12 (8) The Director of the Department of Education shall appoint:
13 (A) One (1) member to represent the Department of
14 Education;
15 (B) One (1) member to represent the Arkansas School Nurses
16 Association;
17 (C) One (1) member to represent the Arkansas Association
18 of Education Administrators; and
19 (D) One (1) member to represent the Arkansas Parent
20 Teacher Association.
- 21 (9) The Department of Human Services shall appoint one (1)
22 member to represent the ARKids First program.
- 23 (b)(1) The Joint Committee on Educational Adequacy shall appoint a
24 chairperson for the Health Adequacy Advisory Committee.
- 25 (2) The chairperson shall call the first meeting within thirty
26 (30) days of the appointments by the Joint Committee on Educational Adequacy.
- 27 (3) The committee shall select from their membership a secretary
28 and treasurer.
- 29 (c)(1) A majority of the membership appointed by May 15, 2003, or
30 within fifteen (15) business days after the effective date of this section,
31 shall constitute a quorum.
- 32 (2) A majority vote of those members present shall be required
33 for any action of the commission.
- 34 (d) Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term in
35 the same manner as is provided in this section for initial appointments.
36 (e) The committee shall meet at least monthly.

1 (f)(1) The Bureau of Legislative Research shall furnish reasonable
2 staff assistance to the committee.

3 (2) The Arkansas Center for Health Improvement, the Department
4 of Health, and the State Board of Education and any other state agencies
5 shall upon request assist the committee and provide the committee with
6 necessary resources and information to carry out the purposes of this
7 subchapter.

8 (g) Members of the committee shall serve without pay, but may receive
9 expense reimbursement in accordance with section § 25-16-902, if funds are
10 available for that purpose.

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12 20-36-103. Duties.

13 (a) The Health Adequacy Committee shall:

14 (1) Study and evaluate the health care needs of the school age
15 children of Arkansas to obtain an adequate education;

16 (2) Study and evaluate health programs in the schools and their
17 effectiveness in allowing students to obtain an adequate education including,
18 but not limited to, school nurse programs;

19 (3) Study and evaluate whether children are receiving adequate
20 health care and correction of health problems while in school;

21 (4) Study and evaluate the effects of inadequate health on the
22 performance of children in the classroom in obtaining an adequate education,
23 equal educational opportunity, or both;

24 (5) Develop a strategic statewide plan to ensure adequate health
25 care of school age children while in the classroom to obtain an adequate
26 education; and

27 (6) Develop a strategic statewide plan so school age children
28 can become more responsible in making preventative decisions regarding their
29 health and thus increase educational opportunity.

30 (b) By September 1, 2003, the committee shall report its initial
31 findings and strategic plan for meeting the health needs of school age
32 children to the Joint Committee on Educational Adequacy, the House and Senate
33 Interim Committees on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor, and the Governor.

34 (c) If the Joint Committee on Educational Adequacy ceases to exist
35 before the expiration of the Health Adequacy Committee, the committee shall
36 report further findings to the House and Senate Interim Committees on Public

1 Health, Welfare, and Labor, and the Governor.

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3 20-36-104. Funding.

4 (a)(1) The committee's funding shall be from grants, donations, and
5 any other funds that may be made available through appropriations by the
6 General Assembly.

7 (2) Moneys received by the committee shall be used solely for
8 the support of the functions of the committee.

9 (b)(1) Grants and donations received by the committee shall be cash
10 funds and shall be administered by the Arkansas Department of Health, but
11 shall be subject to appropriation by the General Assembly.

12 (2) Any moneys received from grantors and donors that are not
13 expended by the committee shall be returned to the grantors and donors in
14 proportion that each bears to the total of all grants and donations received
15 by the commission.

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17 20-36-105. The committee shall expire on December 31, 2005.

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19 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 9, Chapter 6, Subchapter 4 is amended
20 to add a new section to read as follows:

21 19-6-487. Health Adequacy Committee Fund.

22 (a) There is created on the books of the Treasurer of State, Auditor
23 of State, and Chief Fiscal Officer of the State a special revenue fund to be
24 known as the "Health Adequacy Committee Fund".

25 (b)(1) All moneys collected under § 20-36-104 shall be deposited into
26 the State Treasury to the credit of the fund as special revenues.

27 (2) The fund shall also consist of any other revenues as may be
28 authorized by law.

29 (c) The fund shall be used by the Health Adequacy Committee for the
30 purposes set out in § 20-36-104.

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32 SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
33 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the Joint Committee on
34 Educational Adequacy must report its findings by September 1, 2003; that
35 health care adequacy among school age children in Arkansas is an essential
36 component of any definition of educational adequacy; that the initial reports

1 of the Health Adequacy Committee created by this act must be available to the
2 Joint Committee on Educational Adequacy before the formulation of the final
3 report. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being
4 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and
5 safety shall become effective on:

6 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

7 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
8 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
9 bill; or

10 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
11 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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13 /s/ J. Johnson, et al
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