

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

A Bill

SENATE BILL 945

4
5 By: Senator Steele
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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FOR
10 MEDICAL SCIENCES, THD DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, AND
11 THE MINORITY HEALTH COMMISSION TO STUDY
12 DISPARITIES IN HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE BETWEEN
13 MINORITY AND MAJORITY COMMUNITIES; TO REPORT
14 FINDINGS TO THE HOUSE AND SENATE INTERIM
15 COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR;
16 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

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19 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE UNIVERSITY OF
20 ARKANSAS FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES, THE
21 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, AND THE MINORITY
22 HEALTH COMMISSION TO STUDY HEALTH CARE
23 IN MINORITY AND MAJORITY COMMUNITIES.
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26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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28 SECTION 1. (a) The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and
29 the Minority Health Commission shall study the disparities between the
30 minority and majority communities with regard to health, health care, and the
31 availability of health care.

32 (b) The study shall include, but not be limited to:

33 (1) The infant mortality rate among African-Americans;

34 (2) Life expectancy among African-Americans;

35 (3) The increased dangers from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome
36 (SIDS) for African-American babies;



1 (4) The percentage of African-American high school students in
2 Arkansas reporting some type of tobacco use;

3 (5) The relatively low rate of breast cancer among African-
4 American women in comparison to the comparatively high chance that an
5 African-American woman who develops breast cancer will not survive;

6 (6) The high rates among African-American men of developing and
7 dying from cancer;

8 (7) The high rate of diabetes among African-Americans;

9 (8) The relation between poverty and poor health; and

10 (9) The severe limitations on health and medical facilities in
11 the Delta, coupled with a dangerous inadequacy of access to primary care
12 health professionals.

13 (c) The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and the Minority
14 Health Commission shall report their findings to The House and Senate Interim
15 Committees on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor no later than August 30,
16 2004.

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