

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 86th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2007
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2211

5 By: Representative Everett
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS CHILD HEALTH
10 RESOURCES PROGRAM TO PROVIDE HEALTH IMPROVEMENT
11 OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN; AND FOR OTHER
12 PURPOSES.
13

Subtitle

15 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS CHILD
16 HEALTH RESOURCES PROGRAM TO PROVIDE
17 HEALTH IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR
18 CHILDREN.
19
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
22

23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 78, is amended to add an
24 additional subchapter to read as follows:

25 20-78-801. Findings and intent.

26 (a) It is found and determined by the General Assembly that:

27 (1) Treatment for children in need of health and educational
28 opportunities is needed to assure that every child is prepared for school
29 programs by kindergarten age; and

30 (2) Establishment of programs designed to give young children
31 the ability to learn at their peers' rate will provide optimal health and
32 educational opportunities for all Arkansas children.

33 (b) It is the intent of this subchapter to provide for the
34 availability of preventive assistance for children in need of concentrated
35 preparation for kindergarten and later learning environments.
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1 20-78-802. Arkansas Child Health Resources Program established.

2 (a) There is established the Arkansas Child Health Resources Program
 3 to make grants for the delivery of direct assistance to eligible children to
 4 enable the children to develop better cognitive, social, communication, and
 5 adaptive skills.

6 (b) The program shall be administered exclusively by the Division of
 7 Child Care and Early Childhood Education of the Department of Health and
 8 Human Services. The division will provide all program monitoring and
 9 technical assistance necessary to administer the grants under the program.

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 11 20-78-803. Eligibility for services.

12 A child is eligible for services under the Arkansas Child Health
 13 Resources Program if the child is:

14 (1) Five (5) years of age or younger;

15 (2) Enrolled in an early childhood education program or a family
 16 home that is licensed by the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood
 17 Education of the Department of Health and Human Services; and

18 (3)(A) Screened and evaluated by an education specialist and
 19 after which the grantee determines the child's age equivalency in the areas
 20 of competency.

21 (B) Services will be provided to prevent a delay in
 22 development of physical, cognitive, communication, social, emotional, or
 23 adaptive responses, and to accelerate strengths in all children.

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 25 20-78-804. Services.

26 (a)(1) The determination of the need for services for each child and
 27 the delivery of the services shall be by an education specialist with two (2)
 28 years' or more experience with children.

29 (2) The need for services for each child shall be based on the
 30 assessment and screening results of tests administered by an education
 31 specialist after which the education specialist will determine the number of
 32 units of service the child will receive.

33 (b)(1)(A) Education specialists must undergo training developed by and
 34 administered by the grantee.

35 (B) Education specialists shall be under the supervision
 36 of a person who holds at least a bachelor's degree or has two (2) or more

1 years' experience with children.

2 (2) All staffing shall be ethnically diverse-appropriate to
3 child enrollment while adhering to qualifications established solely by the
4 grantee.

5 (c) Services shall be delivered at the location where the child is
6 enrolled in an early childhood program or in the licensed family home.

7 (d)(1) Qualified personnel shall evaluate each child to determine the
8 number of units of appropriate service needed by each child. The service
9 includes assessment, evaluation, and developmental assistance to determine
10 age equivalency. The service also includes consultation with facility
11 personnel concerning appropriate assistance for eligible children.

12 (2)(A) Each child shall receive no more than four (4) units of
13 service each week, unless additional units are approved by the supervisor of
14 the education specialist.

15 (B) A unit of service equals fifteen (15) minutes of
16 service.

17 (3) The provider of services shall determine age-appropriate
18 groups and provide services in small group situations.

19 (4) The provider of the service shall maintain a written record
20 of:

21 (A) The date and time the service was delivered;

22 (B) The number of units of service delivered;

23 (C) Activities conducted; and

24 (D) Any recommendations concerning services for the
25 children involved.

26 (e) Toys, books, learning materials, and equipment necessary for
27 delivery of services shall be made available to the education specialist by
28 the early childhood center or licensed family home.

29
30 20-78-805. Grants.

31 (a)(1) The Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education of the
32 Department of Health and Human Services shall pay grants from an
33 appropriation made for that purpose.

34 (2) The amount of funds that may be retained by the division as
35 administrative costs shall not exceed two percent (2%) of the amount of total
36 grants awarded.

1 (b) A proposal for a grant shall contain:

2 (1) The number of personnel to deliver services for each
 3 classroom and the number of support personnel;

4 (2) Proposed service locations;

5 (3) A statement concerning the ability of the applicant to
 6 provide the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education of the
 7 Department of Health and Human Services with monthly reports containing
 8 treatment notes, training material, training dates for persons providing
 9 services to the children, and training dates for supervisors; and

10 (4) Sample forms for reporting weekly progress of each child,
 11 screening and assessment instruments to be used, and proposed testing
 12 instruments.

13 (c) To avoid conflicts of interest, a state or local governmental
 14 entity shall not be eligible for a grant under the Arkansas Child Health
 15 Resources Program.

16 (d) Priority shall be given to grant proposals:

17 (1) Submitted by an applicant able to serve children in a broad
 18 geographic area; and

19 (2) Designed to serve children in areas with a demonstrated need
 20 for programs that enable the children to develop better cognitive, social,
 21 communication, and adaptive skills.

22 (e)(1) Grants shall be awarded at the rate of fifteen thousand dollars
 23 (\$15,000) per classroom.

24 (2) If sufficient funds are available, it is the goal of the
 25 Arkansas Child Health Resources Program to provide grants for five hundred
 26 (500) classrooms.

27 (f) Each grantee shall agree to deliver seven hundred (700) units or
 28 more of services for each classroom during the one-year term of the grant.

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 30 20-78-806. Grant schedule.

31 (a) The following schedule shall apply to the award of grants each
 32 year under the Arkansas Child Health Resources Program:

33 (1) Grant proposals are due on May 1;

34 (2) Notification of acceptance of grant proposals shall be given
 35 to grantees by May 15;

36 (3) The beginning date of the grants shall be July 1; and

1 (4) During the term of the grant, the grant recipient shall be
 2 paid monthly following the delivery of services.

3 (b) The initial grant proposals under the Arkansas Child Health
 4 Resources Program are due May 1, 2007, and the initial grants shall begin
 5 July 1, 2007.

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 7 20-78-807. Construction.

8 This subchapter shall be liberally construed in conformance with its
 9 intent.

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 11 20-78-808. Rules.

12 The Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education of the
 13 Department of Health and Human Resources may promulgate reasonable rules
 14 necessary to carry out the division's responsibilities and not inconsistent
 15 with this subchapter.

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 17 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
 18 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that there is a need for an
 19 additional program for children in need of concentrated preparation for
 20 kindergarten and later learning environments; that this act establishes the
 21 Arkansas Child Health Resources Program; and that this act is immediately
 22 necessary to allow grants to be awarded and to allow services to begin to be
 23 delivered a reasonable time before the next school year. Therefore, an
 24 emergency is declared to exist and this act being necessary for the
 25 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective
 26 on:

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

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

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

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