

1 State of Arkansas  
2 92nd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2019  
4

As Engrossed: H3/14/19

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1608

5 By: Representatives Scott, Crawford  
6 By: Senator B. Davis  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT REQUIRING THE STUDY OF ADVERSE CHILDHOOD  
10 EXPERIENCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
11

### Subtitle

14 REQUIRING THE STUDY OF ADVERSE CHILDHOOD  
15 EXPERIENCES.  
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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20 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Adverse childhood experiences study.

21 (a) The House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and  
22 Military Affairs and the Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth shall  
23 perform a study on adverse childhood experiences by, including without  
24 limitation:

25 (1) Analyzing existing resources that are related to building  
26 resilience in early childhood;

27 (2) Proposing appropriate structures for advancing the most  
28 evidence-based or evidence-informed and cost-effective approaches to serving  
29 children who have experienced trauma caused by adverse childhood experiences  
30 by:

31 (A) Identifying by service area existing intervention  
32 programs for children and families, populations served by intervention  
33 programs, and the effectiveness of identified intervention programs;

34 (B) Determining whether there are any statewide or  
35 regional gaps in services for interventions on behalf of children and  
36 families;



1 (C) Exploring previous and ongoing initiatives of the  
2 Department of Human Services and the Department of Education that address  
3 trauma caused by adverse childhood experiences;

4 (D) Considering possible legislative proposals that use  
5 evidence-based or evidence-informed and cost-effective interventions for  
6 children and families based on the strengths and weaknesses of existing  
7 services; and

8 (E) Determining the fiscal impact and staffing needs  
9 related to changes in services offered by the state to children and families;  
10 and

11 (3) Hearing testimony from a diverse array of public and private  
12 stakeholders.

13 (b)(1) By December 31, 2020, the Department of Human Services and the  
14 Department of Education shall submit a report concerning adverse childhood  
15 experiences to the:

16 (A) Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth; and

17 (B) House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth,  
18 Legislative and Military Affairs.

19 (2) The report of the Department of Human Services and the  
20 Department of Education shall:

21 (A) Address the integration of evidence-based or evidence-  
22 informed and family-focused prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery  
23 services for children and families who are affected by adverse childhood  
24 experiences;

25 (B) Address the respective coordination of evidence-based  
26 or evidence-informed and family-focused prevention, intervention, treatment,  
27 and recovery services throughout the Department of Human Services and the  
28 Department of Education;

29 (C) Propose mechanisms for:

30 (i) Improving and engaging community providers in  
31 the systematic prevention of trauma caused by adverse childhood experiences;

32 (ii) Case detection and care of individuals affected  
33 by adverse childhood experiences; and

34 (iii) Ensuring that grants in support of children  
35 and families that are awarded to the community partners of the Department of  
36 Human Services or the Department of Education include requirements for

1 accountability and the assessment of outcomes for children with trauma caused  
2 by adverse childhood experiences and for their families; and

3 (D) Include without limitation:

4 (i) A spreadsheet by service area of each program  
5 and service that receives state or federal funds to provide intervention  
6 services to children and families;

7 (ii) A spreadsheet by service area of the  
8 eligibility criteria for each program and service that provides intervention  
9 services to children and families;

10 (iii) A compilation list of grants awarded to  
11 organizations that address childhood trauma caused by adverse childhood  
12 experiences and provide programs that build childhood resiliency;

13 (iv) A summary concerning the method by which the  
14 Department of Human Services coordinates work related to childhood trauma  
15 prevention, screening, and treatment efforts;

16 (v) Training materials currently disseminated to  
17 early childcare and learning professionals by the Department of Human  
18 Services or the Department of Education regarding how to identify a student  
19 who may be exposed to adverse childhood experiences and strategies for  
20 referring families to community health teams and primary care medical homes;  
21 and

22 (vi) A description of any existing programming  
23 conducted within a state agency or in partnership with a local community  
24 group that is aimed at addressing and reducing trauma caused by adverse  
25 childhood experiences and the associated health risks to children.

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30 /s/Scott  
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