

2 State of Arkansas

3 92nd General Assembly

4 Second Extraordinary Session, 2020

A Bill

JMB/JMB

HOUSE BILL

5
6 By: Representative Vaught

7 Filed with: Arkansas Legislative Council

8 pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

9 For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE STUDY ON
11 MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

12 13 14 Subtitle

15 TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE STUDY
16 ON MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH.

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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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21 SECTION 1. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. Arkansas Legislative
22 Study on Mental and Behavioral Health – Creation – Duties.

23 (a)(1) The Joint Performance Review Committee shall meet to conduct
24 the Arkansas Legislative Study on Mental Health.

25 (b)(1) The cochairs of the Joint Performance Review Committee shall
26 call the first meeting for the purpose of beginning the study within
27 sixty (60) days of the effective date of this act.

28 (2) The Joint Performance Review Committee shall meet at least
29 one (1) time every two (2) months in order to conduct the study but may meet
30 more often at the call of the cochairs.

31 (c) The purpose of the study is to assess the strengths and weaknesses
32 of the mental and behavioral health resources and care currently available in
33 the State of Arkansas and to recommend legislation to the General Assembly
34 regarding best practices and improvements within the area of mental and
35 behavioral health care for consideration during the 2021 Regular Session.

1 (d) In order to achieve the purpose of this section, the Joint
2 Performance Review Committee shall study the following:

3 (1) Access to and availability of mental and behavioral health
4 care within this state;

5 (2) Existing mental and behavioral healthcare facilities in this
6 state;

7 (3) Medicaid programs regarding mental and behavioral health and
8 other public and private medical reimbursements for mental and behavioral
9 healthcare providers and facilities within and without this state;

10 (4) Best practices for provision of mental ad behavioral health
11 services;

12 (5) Mental and behavioral health programs in other states;

13 (6) The utilization and financial condition of the crisis
14 stabilization units and the Arkansas State Hospital;

15 (7) Transportation of mental and behavioral health patients in
16 Arkansas;

17 (8) The rate of deaths by suicide of school-aged children in
18 this state;

19 (9) Mental health screenings and suicide prevention measures for
20 children in kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12); and

21 (10) Other matters related to mental and behavioral health
22 services.

23 (e)(1) On or before December 1, 2021, the Joint Performance Review
24 Committee shall file with the Legislative Council a final written report of
25 its activities, findings, and recommendations.

26 (2) Upon filing, the Arkansas Legislative Study on Mental and
27 Behavioral Health shall be complete.

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30 Referred by Representative Vaught

31 Prepared by: JMB/JMB

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