

State of Arkansas
88th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2011

A Bill

SENATE BILL 958

By: Senator Elliott
By: Representative Word

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE A CULTURAL COMPETENCE INTERIM STUDY;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT TO CREATE A CULTURAL COMPETENCE
INTERIM STUDY.

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

SECTION 1. Interim study on cultural competence.

The Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor and the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor shall:

(1) Study the increasing diversity of our state;

(2)(A) Identify best practice approaches to cultural competency training with a goal of preparing state employees to interact most effectively with people of different cultures and ethnicities.

(B) For purposes of this act, cultural competency includes four (4) components as follows:

(i) Awareness of one's own cultural worldview;

(ii) Attitude towards cultural differences;

(iii) Knowledge of different cultural practices and worldviews; and

(iv) Cross-cultural skills.

(C) The training program studied under this act shall ensure that participants have increased cultural awareness and competence in their respective service field, including without limitation:

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(i) Cross-cultural communication;
(ii) Culturally and linguistically appropriate
policy considerations;
(iii) Culturally competent service delivery;
(iv) Health disparities;
(v) Equity factors in the health systems; and
(vi) Culturally and linguistically competent care
supported by policy, administration, and practice.

(D) The training developed and recommended under this act
shall be designed to be offered electronically and through continuing
education and various distance-education models and media so as to maximize
replication and minimize expense for state employees and state institutions;
and

(3) Make recommendations on ways to inform health care and
public health professionals on the National Standards on Culturally and
Linguistically Appropriate Services and encourage the use of those standards.

SECTION 2. The Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor
and the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor shall report
their final findings under this act to the Governor, the Legislative Council,
and the Arkansas Minority Health Commission on or before December 1, 2012.

APPROVED: 04/04/2011

