

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to law as it existed prior to the 82nd General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 82nd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 1999  
4

# A Bill

Act 1000 of 1999  
SENATE BILL 787

5 By: Senator Bradford  
6  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 "AN ACT TO CONTINUE THE UNWED BIRTH AND TEENAGE  
10 PREGNANCY PREVENTION PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT OF  
11 HEALTH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. "

### Subtitle

14 "TO CONTINUE THE UNWED BIRTH AND TEENAGE  
15 PREGNANCY PREVENTION PROGRAM. "

16  
17  
18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
19

20 SECTION 1. The General Assembly finds that:

21 (1) The number of births to unwed women and to teenage parents has  
22 increased in our country and state during the past fifty (50) years;

23 (2) There were twelve thousand one hundred and fifty-seven (12,157)  
24 unwed births in Arkansas in 1996, which represent thirty-three point four  
25 percent (33.4%) of all births in the state;

26 (3) There were four thousand six hundred and fifty-one (4,651) unwed  
27 births to teenagers in Arkansas in 1995, which represent thirty-eight point  
28 three percent (38.3%) of all unmarried births in the state;

29 (4) Unwed births and teenage pregnancy are problems which have  
30 tremendous financial and human consequences for present and future  
31 generations, and prevention programs can serve as the basis for welfare reform  
32 efforts by reducing the number of persons in need of public assistance;

33 (5) A comprehensive program to reduce the number of unwed births and  
34 teenage pregnancies, which includes local initiatives developed by community  
35 coalitions, should be coordinated at the state level.  
36

1           SECTION 2. (a) The Department of Health shall be designated to  
 2 coordinate interagency efforts and to serve as the administrative and fiscal  
 3 agent of the Unwed Birth and Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Program. The  
 4 program shall involve a multi-faceted approach to the problems associated with  
 5 unwed births and teenage pregnancies that is cognizant of community needs and  
 6 values. The department shall receive advice and input regarding the  
 7 management of the program from both the Unwed Birth Prevention Steering  
 8 Committee and the Governor's Steering Committee on Abstinence Education. The  
 9 program shall include, but not be limited to abstinence education initiatives,  
 10 pregnancy planning, risk factors impacting teen and unwed births, prevention  
 11 strategies, a comprehensive media campaign, grants to local communities and  
 12 program evaluation.

13           (b) State agencies that provide services to unwed mothers, teenage  
 14 parents, and teenagers shall cooperate in administering the program with the  
 15 Department of Health.  
 16

17           SECTION 3. Legislative oversight of program activities shall be  
 18 provided by the House and Senate Committees on Public Health, Welfare and  
 19 Labor.  
 20

21           SECTION 4. The provisions of this act shall automatically expire on  
 22 July 1, 2001 unless extended by an act of the legislature.  
 23

24           SECTION 5. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature  
 25 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code  
 26 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.  
 27

28           SECTION 6. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to  
 29 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect  
 30 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without  
 31 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this  
 32 act are declared to be severable.  
 33

34           SECTION 7. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are  
 35 hereby repealed.  
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APPROVED: 3/31/1999