

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 324 of 1999
HOUSE BILL 1436

5 By: Representative Cook
6
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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 "AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
10 COMMISSION TO REPORT ANNUALLY TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY;
11 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. "
12

Subtitle

13 "AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE EARLY CHILDHOOD
14 EDUCATION COMMISSION TO REPORT ANNUALLY
15 TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. "
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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21 Section 1. Arkansas Code 20-78-501 is amended to read as follows:

22 "20-78-501. Creation - Composition - Meetings.

23 (a) There is hereby established the Arkansas Early Childhood Commission
24 to be composed of eighteen (18) members appointed by the Governor, subject to
25 confirmation by the Senate. The members of the commission shall serve for
26 three-year terms. The terms of the members of the commission shall begin on
27 July 1. The chairman of the commission shall be selected annually by majority
28 vote of the commission.

29 (b) The membership of the commission shall be as follows:

30 (1) Three (3) members affiliated with child care provider
31 agencies, organizations, or programs;

32 (2) One (1) member affiliated with a Head Start program;

33 (3) One (1) member affiliated with a HIPPIY program;

34 (4) One (1) member employed as an administrator by a public
35 school district;

36 (5) One (1) member employed by a public school district as a

1 teacher with early childhood responsibilities;

2 (6) The Director of the Department of Health or her designee;

3 (7) One (1) member trained as early childhood education
4 professionals;

5 (8) One (1) member who is a parent of a child who attends a
6 childcare program;

7 (9) The Director of the Vocational and Technical Division of the
8 Department of Education, or its successor, or his designee;

9 (10) The Director of the General Education Division of the
10 Department of Education or his designee;

11 (11) Two (2) members representing the business community who have
12 an interest in early childhood education;

13 ~~(13)~~(12) The chair of the House Subcommittee on Children and
14 Youth of the House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and
15 Military Affairs or the chair's designee;

16 ~~(14)~~(13) The chair of the Senate Committee on Children and Youth
17 or the chair's designee;

18 ~~(15)~~(14) The chair of the House Committee on Education or the
19 chair's designee; and

20 ~~(16)~~(15) The chair of the Senate Committee on Education or the
21 chair's designee.

22 (c) The commission shall meet at least quarterly and at such other
23 times as may be deemed necessary for the performance of the duties of the
24 commission. Special meetings of the commission may be called by the chairman
25 or by agreement of a majority of the members of the commission.

26 (d) The members of the commission shall serve without compensation or
27 per diem but shall be entitled to reimbursement for actual expenses incurred
28 in the performance of duties as members of the commission. Expense
29 reimbursement shall be in accordance with state travel and official business
30 expense reimbursement procedures and regulations. Expense reimbursement shall
31 be paid from funds appropriated to the Division of Child Care and Early
32 Childhood Education for such purposes.

33 (e) Members of the commission serving on August 1, 1997, except those
34 members whose positions have been eliminated by this act, shall continue to
35 serve out their terms.

36 (f) The commission shall report annually to the House Education

1 Committee and the Senate Education Committee as set out in Arkansas
 2 Code 20-78-502."

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 4 Section 2. Arkansas Code 20-78-502 is amended to read as follows:
 5 "20-78-502. Duties - Assistance.

6 (a) The Arkansas Early Childhood Commission shall have the following
 7 duties and responsibilities and shall annually report their progress toward
 8 the following:

9 (1) Advise the division on the administration of the Arkansas
 10 Child Care Facilities Loan Guarantee Trust Fund;

11 (2) Provide technical assistance in design of training programs
 12 to enhance the skills of professionals in early childhood programs, including
 13 the development of an annual comprehensive training plan for providers;

14 (3) Examine the recommendations of national and regional groups
 15 and systems producing scientifically proven and cost effective results used by
 16 others to provide child care and early childhood services;

17 ~~(3)(4)~~ Assist in development of a comprehensive long-range plan
 18 for expansion, development, and implementation of early childhood programs in
 19 Arkansas including recommending allocation and expenditures of funds
 20 appropriated to the Arkansas Better Chance Program;

21 ~~(4)(5)~~ Facilitate coordination and communication among state
 22 agencies providing early childhood programs to promote nonduplication and
 23 coordination of services in such programs and recommend a structure for the
 24 administration of the current existing programs and the recommended programs;

25 ~~(5)(6)~~ Advise the ~~General Education Division of the~~ Department of
 26 Education and other appropriate state agencies on the development of
 27 programmatic standards for early childhood programs to be funded with funds
 28 appropriated to the General Education Division or to such other state agencies
 29 as may receive appropriations for such purposes;

30 ~~(6)(7)~~ Promote strong local community support for early childhood
 31 education programs;

32 ~~(7)(8)~~ Promote public awareness of childcare and early childhood
 33 programs.

34 (b) The Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education shall
 35 assist the commission in carrying out its duties and responsibilities."

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1 SECTION 3. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
2 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
3 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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5 SECTION 4. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
6 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
7 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
8 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
9 act are declared to be severable.

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11 SECTION 5. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
12 hereby repealed.

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15 APPROVED: 2/26/1999
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