

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

Act 816 of the Regular Session

1 State of Arkansas
2 86th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2007
4

As Engrossed: H3/21/07

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2211

5 By: Representatives Key, D. Creekmore
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8 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

9 AN ACT CONCERNING EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR
10 CHILD CARE FACILITIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

12 **Subtitle**

13 THE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR CHILD
14 CARE FACILITIES ACT.
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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19 SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Emergency
20 Preparedness for Child Care Facilities Act".
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22 SECTION 2. Legislative intent.

23 The General Assembly finds that:

24 (1) Early care and education facilities at which children from
25 birth to four (4) years of age and school-age children may spend part or all
26 of their days may not be known to emergency preparedness agencies and thus
27 may be overlooked in first response activities and in recovery planning
28 following major disasters;

29 (2) The health and social-emotional, cognitive, and physical
30 development of young children may be compromised by severe traumatic
31 experiences;

32 (3) Teachers and caregivers of young children will improve the
33 children's health and well being by being prepared for orderly evacuations
34 and rapid reunification of young children with their parents during
35 emergencies;



1 (4) Child care facilities are crucial to the economic
2 redevelopment of communities following major disasters; and

3 (5) State child care and emergency management agencies should
4 take steps to share data and coordinate planning, response, and recovery of
5 child care facilities during and after major disasters.

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7 SECTION 3. Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education
8 policies.

9 The Director of the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood
10 Education of the Department of Health and Human Services shall coordinate
11 efforts with other state agencies and appropriate organizations to:

12 (1)(A) Share with the Arkansas Department of Emergency
13 Management on a quarterly basis an integrated list of all licensed child care
14 facilities and all known license-exempt child care facilities, including
15 without limitation physical addresses, maximum capacity, emergency contact
16 information, hours of operation, and status as tuition subsidy, meal subsidy,
17 state-funded pre-kindergarten, and quality-rated facilities.

18 (B) The integrated list is to be sorted by county;

19 (2) Identify designated emergency shelters, including without
20 limitation local shelters and mass evacuation shelters, in proximity to all
21 licensed child care facilities and all known license-exempt facilities,
22 identify three (3) designated shelters in closest proximity to each child
23 care facility, and notify each child care facility annually of the locations
24 of those shelters;

25 (3) Coordinate efforts to notify the state emergency management
26 agency of the estimated number of children in child care facilities who could
27 be evacuated to each shelter;

28 (4) Require all licensed child care facilities to notify parents
29 annually of the shelters designated by the division as being in closest
30 proximity to those facilities;

31 (5) Include early childhood emergency preparedness courses and
32 workshops that address specific risk factors and evacuation procedures in
33 particular geographic areas among approved courses and workshops for meeting
34 requirements for in-service training for licensed child care providers in
35 those geographic areas; and

36 (6) Incorporate specific indicators of emergency preparedness,

1 linked to specific disaster risk factors in providers' geographic areas, into
2 each level of any quality ratings above minimum licensing standards.

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4 SECTION 4. Arkansas Department of Emergency Management policies.

5 The Director of the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management shall
6 coordinate efforts with other state agencies and appropriate organizations
7 to:

8 (1) Disseminate county-level lists of all licensed child care
9 facilities and all known license-exempt facilities, including without
10 limitation physical address, maximum capacity, hours of operation, and
11 emergency contact information, to county governments for use in search and
12 rescue during emergencies and disasters;

13 (2) Share a periodically updated statewide list of designated
14 emergency shelters, both local shelters and mass evacuation shelters, with
15 the state child care licensing agency, state child care subsidy program, and
16 state child and adult nutrition program when such a list is available; and

17 (3) Include child care facilities where critical facilities such
18 as schools, hospitals, and nursing homes are mentioned in the state response
19 plan, emergency preparedness exercises, or other guiding documents and
20 activities.

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22 /s/ Key, et al

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24 APPROVED: 4/2/2007