

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 842 of the Regular Session

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

As Engrossed: H3/20/07

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2615

4
5 By: Representatives Hardy, Allen, T. Baker, Blount, E. Brown, Chesterfield, Davis, S. Dobbins, Garner,
6 R. Green, Hawkins, Jeffrey, Kidd, W. Lewellen, Lowery, S. Prater, Rainey, Reep, Saunders, Sumpter
7 By: Senator Steele

For An Act To Be Entitled

11 AN ACT TO CREATE AN ARKANSAS HIV-AIDS MINORITY
12 TASKFORCE; TO COORDINATE STATEWIDE EFFORTS TO
13 COMBAT THE DEBILITATING EFFECTS OF HIV-AIDS ON
14 MINORITY ARKANSANS; TO IMPROVE HIV-AIDS
15 PREVENTION, INTERVENTION, AND TREATMENT PROGRAMS
16 IN THE MINORITY COMMUNITY; AND FOR OTHER
17 PURPOSES.

Subtitle

19 AN ACT TO CREATE AN ARKANSAS HIV-AIDS
20 MINORITY TASKFORCE AND TO COORDINATE
21 STATEWIDE EFFORTS TO COMBAT THE
22 DEBILITATING EFFECTS OF HIV-AIDS ON
23 MINORITY ARKANSANS.
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26
27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

28
29 SECTION 1. Findings.

30 The General Assembly finds that:

31 (1) The incidence of HIV-AIDS is on the rise in Arkansas among
32 women, African-Americans, and Hispanics;

33 (2) State and federal funds for HIV-AIDS prevention,
34 intervention, and service programs for minorities in the State of Arkansas
35 have decreased;



1 (3) More coalition building between community-based
2 organizations in the execution of HIV-AIDS intervention and prevention
3 programs in needed to reduce HIV-AIDS in minority communities and to make
4 more effective use of limited resources; and

5 (4) An HIV-AIDS Minority Taskforce is needed to increase public
6 awareness of the gravity of HIV-AIDS in minority communities in Arkansas.

7
8 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 15 is amended to add an
9 additional subchapter to read as follows:

10 20-15-1801. Title.

11 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "HIV-AIDS Minority Task
12 Force Act of 2007".

13
14 20-15-1802. Arkansas HIV-AIDS Minority Taskforce – Creation.

15 (a) The Minority HIV-AIDS Task Force is created.

16 (b)(1) With consideration given to minority and stakeholder
17 participation and for diversity of race, gender, geographic location, and
18 sexual identity, the Governor shall appoint the following members to the task
19 force:

20 (A)(i) Four (4) members who are affected by or are living
21 with AIDS or HIV or a family member of someone who is living with HIV or AIDS
22 as follows:

23 (a) One (1) member who is a woman;

24 (b) One (1) member who is Hispanic;

25 (c) One (1) member who is African-American;

26 (d) One (1) member who represents the a
27 minority population other than Hispanic or African-American.

28 (ii) At least one (1) member under subdivision
29 (b)(A) of this section shall be from a different congressional district.

30 (B)(i) Three (3) members who are affiliated with minority
31 community-based advocacy or service provider organizations as follows:

32 (a) One (1) member who is a woman;

33 (b) One (1) member who is Hispanic;

34 (c) One (1) member who is African-American;

35 (d) One (1) member who represents the a
36 minority population other than Hispanic or African-American.

1 (ii) At least one (1) member under subdivision
2 (b)(1)(B) of this section shall be from a different congressional district.

3 (C) One (1) member who represents minority treatment
4 providers;

5 (D) Two (2) members who represent faith-based
6 organizations who are involved with groups or individuals who are living with
7 HIV or AIDS;

8 (E) One (1) member from the Minority Health Commission;

9 (F) One (1) member to represent a local health department
10 that is in a rural area with a high incidence of HIV-AIDS;

11 (G) One (1) member to represent the Fay W. Boozman College
12 of Public Health of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences;

13 (H) One (1) member to represent Division of Health of the
14 Department of Health and Human Services HIV-STD Division;

15 (I) One (1) member to represent that Arkansas Community
16 Planning Group;

17 (J) One (1) member to represent the Arkansas Medical,
18 Dental, and Pharmacy Associations;

19 (K) One (1) member to represent the medical insurance
20 industry;

21 (L) One (1) member to represent entities involved in
22 hospice care in primarily minority communities; and

23 (M) One (1) member to represent nursing homes that have
24 AIDS patients.

25 (2) The Chair of the Senate Interim Committee on Public Health,
26 Welfare, and Labor and the Chair of the House Interim Committee on Public
27 Health, Welfare, and Labor shall serve as ex officio members of the task
28 force.

29 (b) The members of the task force shall draw lots for their term of
30 appointment so that six (6) members serve two-year terms; six (6) members
31 serve three-year terms, and seven (7) members serve four-year terms.

32 (c)(1) The nonlegislative members of the task force shall serve
33 without compensation.

34 (2) However, if funds are available, the non legislative members
35 shall be reimbursed by the Minority Health Commission for actual and
36 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties for the task

1 force.

2 (d) If a vacancy occurs, the Governor shall appoint a person who
3 represents the same constituency as the member being replaced.

4 (e)(1) The task force shall elect one (1) of its members to act as
5 chair for a term of one (1) year.

6 (2) The task force shall elect one (1) of its members to act as
7 cochair to serve in the absence of the chair for one (1) year.

8 (f) A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for the
9 transaction of business.

10 (j) The task force shall meet at least quarterly but may meet as
11 necessary to further the intent of this subchapter.

12 (k) The Minority Health Commission shall provide office space and
13 staff for the task force as resources allow.

14
15 20-15-1803. Arkansas HIV-AIDS Minority Taskforce – Powers and duties.

16 (a) The Arkansas HIV-AIDS Minority Taskforce shall:

17 (1)(A) Conduct a series of public forums around the state to
18 take public comment and to discuss the incidence of HIV-AIDS and the
19 effectiveness of prevention and outreach programs within the minority
20 population.

21 (B) One (1) of the public forums required under
22 subdivision 9a)(1)(A) of this section shall be held in each of the state's
23 congressional districts.

24 (2) Study ways to strengthen HIV and AIDS prevention programs
25 and early intervention and treatment efforts in the state's African-American,
26 Hispanic, and other minority communities;

27 (3) Study ways to address the needs of the state's minorities
28 who have AIDS and their families;

29 (4) Prepare and submit a report of task force findings and
30 recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of
31 the House of Representatives, and the Division of Health of the Department of
32 Health and Human Services on or before November 1, 2008.

33 (b) The report required under subdivision (a)(4) of this section shall
34 include:

35 (1) Specific strategies for reducing the risk of HIV and AIDS in
36 the state's minority communities;

1 (2) A plan for exchanging information and ideas among minority
2 community-based organizations that provide HIV and AIDS prevention services;

3 (3) The needs of prevention and treatment programs within
4 minority communities and the resources that are available within minority
5 communities;

6 (4) Specific strategies for ensuring that minority group members
7 who are at risk of HIV infection and AIDS seek testing;

8 (5) Specific strategies for ensuring that minority group members
9 with HIV or AIDS are provided with access to treatment and secondary
10 prevention services;

11 (6) Specific strategies to help reduce or eliminate high-risk
12 behaviors in minority group members who test negative for HIV-Aids but
13 continue to practice high-risk behaviors; and

14 (7) A plan to outline the implementation of the recommendations
15 of the task force.

16 (c) The task force shall also consider development of the following:

17 (1) Risk reduction and education programs for groups determined
18 by the Task Force to be at risk of HIV infection;

19 (2) In consultation with a wide range of community leaders,
20 education programs for the public;

21 (3) Pilot programs for the long-term care of individuals with
22 AIDS or AIDS-related condition, including care in nursing homes and in
23 alternative settings;

24 (4) Programs to expand regional outpatient treatment of
25 individuals with AIDS or AIDS-related condition;

26 (5) A program to assist communities, including communities of
27 less than five thousand (5,000) population, in establishing AIDS task forces
28 and support groups for individuals with AIDS, AIDS-related condition, and HIV
29 infection; and

30 (6)(A) A statewide HIV and AIDS prevention campaign directed
31 toward minority group members who are at risk of HIV infection.

32 (B) The Minority Health Commission shall assist in the
33 development and administration of the campaign.

34 (C) The campaign to be considered under subdivision (5)(A)
35 of this section may do any of the following as resources dictate:

36 (i) Use a variety of means of communication,

1 including television, radio, outdoor activities, public service
2 announcements, and peer-to-peer outreach;

3 (ii) Provide information on the risk of HIV and AIDS
4 infection and strategies to follow for prevention, early detection, and
5 treatment;

6 (iii) Use culturally sensitive literature and
7 educational materials; and

8 (iv) Promote the development of individual skills
9 for behavior modification.

10
11 SECTION 2. The work of the Arkansas HIV-AIDS Minority Taskforce that
12 is developed under this subchapter is in addition to any programs developed
13 and administered by the Division of Health of the Department of Health and
14 Human Services.

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16 SECTION 3. The Task Force shall cease to exist on December 31, 2015.

17
18 */s/ Hardy, et al*

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20 *APPROVED: 4/3/2007*