

Act 492 of the 1989 Regular Session.

Act 492

SB353

By: Senator Bookout

"AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A SIXTY DAY PROGRAM OF PARA-MILITARY EXERCISE AND ARDUOUS WORK FOR CERTAIN ELIGIBLE INMATES, TO BE SELECTED BY THE CORRECTION DEPARTMENT; AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THIS PROGRAM BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. TITLE. This act shall be referred to and may be cited as the "Arkansas Boot Camp Act."

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND DETERMINATIONS. The General Assembly hereby finds that the cost of incarcerating the expanding number of offenders in conventional penitentiaries is skyrocketing, bringing added fiscal pressures on the state government; and that some inmates may be effectively punished in a more affordable manner through the exposure to severe, military-like conditions. The General Assembly therefore finds that the Department of Correction should be given the authority to establish boot camps which will provide a more affordable means of punishing certain inmates who are designated as eligible for this alternative punishment by the Department.

SECTION 3. AUTHORIZATION. The Arkansas Board of Correction shall develop and implement a boot camp program designed to reduce the inmate population by diverting eligible offenders from long term incarceration. This diversion shall involve successful completion of a sixty-day program of intensive behavior modification in an arduous, physically demanding, military-like environment, otherwise known as a "boot camp."

SECTION 4. ELIGIBILITY. Appropriate inmates shall be chosen for the program established by this act in accordance with guidelines to be adopted by the Board of Correction. These guidelines must include a risk profile system to be used in selecting inmates eligible for assignment to the boot camp program.

SECTION 5. CONSTRUCTION - APPLICABILITY OF OTHER ACTS. This Act shall be liberally construed to accomplish the intent and purposes of the Legislature in adopting it and shall be the sole authority required for the accomplishment of these purposes. To this end, it shall not be necessary to comply with general provisions of other laws dealing with the minimum time constraints as applied to release eligibility.

SECTION 6. All provisions of this Act of a general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

SECTION 7. CONFLICTS. All law and parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

APPROVED: March 13, 1989

---