

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 150 of the Regular Session

1 State of Arkansas
2 87th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2009

A Bill

SENATE BILL 58

4
5 By: Senator Steele

For An Act To Be Entitled

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8 AN ACT TO REPEAL ARKANSAS CODE 20-76-107
9 CONCERNING THE INDEPENDENT EVALUATOR FOR THE
10 TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES PROGRAM;
11 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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14 AN ACT TO REPEAL ARKANSAS CODE 20-76-107
15 CONCERNING THE INDEPENDENT EVALUATOR FOR
16 THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY
17 FAMILIES PROGRAM.
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 20-76-107 is repealed.

24 ~~20-76-107. Independent evaluator.~~

25 ~~(a)(1) By September 1, 2007, the Department of Workforce Services~~
26 ~~shall contract with a professional consultant for an ongoing independent~~
27 ~~evaluation of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program.~~

28 ~~(2) The Department of Workforce Services shall consult with the~~
29 ~~Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Oversight Board to determine the~~
30 ~~scope of work and timeline of the evaluation.~~

31 ~~(3) The independent evaluator shall submit biannual reports to~~
32 ~~the Governor and the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor and~~
33 ~~the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor which assess:~~

34 ~~(A) How effective the program is in addressing each of the~~
35 ~~transitional employment assistance outcomes as specified in § 20-76-105(1)~~



1 ~~{repealed} and progressing toward each of the annual targets set for those~~
 2 ~~outcomes and any measures that might be taken to improve its performance;~~

3 ~~(B) How effectively performance standards and measurement~~
 4 ~~criteria in the statewide implementation plan are being met;~~

5 ~~(C) How effectively state agencies are cooperating in the~~
 6 ~~implementation of the program;~~

7 ~~(D) How effectively various funding sources are being~~
 8 ~~integrated into the support of the program;~~

9 ~~(E) The outcomes for current and former transitional~~
 10 ~~employment assistance cash assistance recipients and their children, to~~
 11 ~~include at least the following:~~

12 ~~(i) Changes in family income and child poverty;~~

13 ~~(ii) Impact on child welfare;~~

14 ~~(iii) Impact on child hunger;~~

15 ~~(iv) Impact on housing conditions, family living~~
 16 ~~arrangements, and homelessness;~~

17 ~~(v) Impact on the health care coverage and the~~
 18 ~~health status of children;~~

19 ~~(vi) Changes in family expenditure patterns;~~

20 ~~(vii) Births to unwed parents, teen pregnancies, and~~
 21 ~~changes in family structure;~~

22 ~~(viii) Impact on child care patterns and youth~~
 23 ~~supervision;~~

24 ~~(ix) The work history and employment patterns of~~
 25 ~~adults, including whether they are working, the types of employment held, job~~
 26 ~~retention, and their wages or earnings;~~

27 ~~(x) Impact on substance abuse and substance abuse~~
 28 ~~treatment; and~~

29 ~~(xi) Educational and skill attainment;~~

30 ~~(F) Effectiveness of training received by program~~
 31 ~~recipients;~~

32 ~~(G) How effectively transitional employment assistance~~
 33 ~~supportive services are being delivered and the extent to which they meet~~
 34 ~~client needs in making the transition from welfare to work and achieving~~
 35 ~~long-term economic self-sufficiency;~~

36 ~~(H) Transitional employment assistance client usage of~~

1 other forms of public assistance, including, at least, food stamps, Medicaid
2 and ARKids First, and usage of nongovernmental forms of community services;

3 (I) Any other information deemed by the independent
4 evaluator or the board to be helpful in assisting the Governor and the
5 General Assembly in evaluating the impact and effectiveness of the program;
6 and

7 (J) To the extent allowed by available funds, the
8 evaluation shall include separate analyses for the following groups:

9 (i) Cases closed because of noncompliance;

10 (ii) Cases closed because of earnings and
11 employment; and

12 (iii) Cases closed because of reaching the twenty-
13 four-month lifetime limit on cash assistance.

14 (b) All agencies of the state and local government providing program
15 services shall work cooperatively with and provide any necessary assistance
16 to the independent evaluator and shall furnish in a timely manner complete
17 and accurate information to the independent evaluator upon request.

18 (c)(1) The independent evaluation shall include a survey of families
19 that have left the program to examine their work experience, their sources of
20 financial support, the barriers that affect their ability to work, the well-
21 being of families and children, including whether adults face hardships in
22 providing food, shelter, or other basic necessities for their families, and
23 their perceptions of the program and their life after welfare.

24 (2) The study shall utilize professionally recognized techniques
25 for research on families leaving welfare, including statistical sampling and
26 telephone and in-person surveys with rigorous follow-up to ensure adequate
27 response rates.

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29 APPROVED: 2/12/2009
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