

1 State of Arkansas
2 88th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2011

A Bill

SENATE BILL 958

4
5 By: Senator Elliott
6 By: Representative Word

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE A CULTURAL COMPETENCE INTERIM STUDY;
10 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

14 AN ACT TO CREATE A CULTURAL COMPETENCE
15 INTERIM STUDY.

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

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20 SECTION 1. Interim study on cultural competence.

21 The Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor and the House
22 Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor shall:

23 (1) Study the increasing diversity of our state;

24 (2)(A) Identify best practice approaches to cultural competency
25 training with a goal of preparing state employees to interact most
26 effectively with people of different cultures and ethnicities.

27 (B) For purposes of this act, cultural competency includes
28 four (4) components as follows:

29 (i) Awareness of one's own cultural worldview;

30 (ii) Attitude towards cultural differences;

31 (iii) Knowledge of different cultural practices and
32 worldviews; and

33 (iv) Cross-cultural skills.

34 (C) The training program studied under this act shall
35 ensure that participants have increased cultural awareness and competence in
36 their respective service field, including without limitation:



- 1 (i) Cross-cultural communication;
- 2 (ii) Culturally and linguistically appropriate
- 3 policy considerations;
- 4 (iii) Culturally competent service delivery;
- 5 (iv) Health disparities;
- 6 (v) Equity factors in the health systems; and
- 7 (vi) Culturally and linguistically competent care
- 8 supported by policy, administration, and practice.

9 (D) The training developed and recommended under this act
 10 shall be designed to be offered electronically and through continuing
 11 education and various distance-education models and media so as to maximize
 12 replication and minimize expense for state employees and state institutions;
 13 and

14 (3) Make recommendations on ways to inform health care and
 15 public health professionals on the National Standards on Culturally and
 16 Linguistically Appropriate Services and encourage the use of those standards.

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 18 SECTION 2. The Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor
 19 and the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor shall report
 20 their final findings under this act to the Governor, the Legislative Council,
 21 and the Arkansas Minority Health Commission on or before December 1, 2012.

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 24 **APPROVED: 04/04/2011**