

1 State of Arkansas
2 90th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2015
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1534

5 By: Representatives D. Ferguson, Lundstrum
6 By: Senator K. Ingram
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION
10 COORDINATING BOARD TO DEVELOP AN ACTION PLAN TO
11 ADDRESS THE PREVENTION OF UNPLANNED PREGNANCY; AND
12 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

15 TO REQUIRE THE ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION
16 COORDINATING BOARD TO DEVELOP AN ACTION
17 PLAN TO ADDRESS THE PREVENTION OF
18 UNPLANNED PREGNANCY.
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22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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24 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.

25 The General Assembly finds that:

26 (1) Four thousand eighty-nine (4,089) births to teenage mothers
27 were recorded in Arkansas in 2013;

28 (2) Of those births, three thousand thirty (3,030) were among
29 young women between eighteen (18) and nineteen (19) years of age; and

30 (3) Community colleges and universities in Arkansas provide a
31 critical venue to address the prevention of unplanned pregnancies among a
32 significant number of older teens.
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34 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 60, Subchapter 1, is amended
35 to add an additional section to read as follows:

36 6-60-105. Unplanned pregnancies action plan.



1 (a) On and after November 3, 2015, the Arkansas Higher Education
2 Coordinating Board, in collaboration with all public university and community
3 college presidents and chancellors or their designees, shall develop an
4 action plan to address the prevention of unplanned pregnancies among older
5 teens who are unmarried.

6 (b) The action plan shall:

7 (1) Incorporate unplanned pregnancy prevention information for
8 students through advising and student orientation;

9 (2) Integrate information that is recognized as medically
10 accurate by the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists about
11 the prevention of unplanned pregnancy into academic courses if and when
12 appropriate, including without limitation abstinence education;

13 (3) Identify opportunities to raise awareness of and provide
14 resources for the prevention of unplanned pregnancies across the entire
15 student population;

16 (4) Identify opportunities for current students to reach out to
17 younger teens to serve as mentors or roles models, or both, of successful
18 behaviors and healthy choices, including opportunities for outreach during
19 summer vacation or during traditional after-school hours for grades
20 kindergarten through twelve (K-12);

21 (5) Identify private or federal grants available to address the
22 prevention of unplanned pregnancy and to promote student success, including
23 any partnerships necessary to successfully compete for grants;

24 (6) Collaborate with the Department of Health or federally
25 qualified health centers, or both, to promote access to care;

26 (7) Identify child care, transportation, financial aid, and
27 other challenges specific to existing single parents; and

28 (8) Identify other topics or issues relating to the prevention
29 and reduction of unplanned pregnancies among older teens.

30 (c)(1) The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall present
31 the action plan to the Legislative Council upon its completion but no later
32 than November 3, 2015.

33 (2) The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
34 report on the status of the action plan annually to:

35 (A) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Public Health,
36 Welfare, and Labor;

1 (B) The Chair of the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare,
2 and Labor;

3 (C) The Chair of the Senate Education Committee; and

4 (D) The Chair of the House Education Committee.

5 (d) This section shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

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8 **APPROVED: 04/02/2015**
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