

ARKANSAS SENATE
86th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2007
Amendment Form

Subtitle of Senate Bill No. 921

"AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF STATE AGENCIES'
RULES AND PROCEDURES THAT RELATE TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OF
INCARCERATED PARENTS."

Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill No. 921.

Amend Senate Bill No. 921 as originally introduced:

Page 1, delete line 5 and substitute the following:
"By: Senator Wilkins, Brown"

AND

Delete everything following the enacting clause and substitute the following:

"SECTION 1. Legislative intent.

The General Assembly finds:

(1) Arkansas is the home of approximately fifty-one thousand (51,000) children who have experienced parental incarceration during their childhoods;

(2) An additional estimated thirty-five thousand (35,000) children have a parent under some type of criminal justice sanction;

(3) Children whose parents are incarcerated or sanctioned have a vulnerability toward future incarceration due to the lack of support and services during their parent's absence;

(4) The life events of these children are permeated with risk factors of poverty, low educational attainment, coming from communities of violence, and coping with domestic violence in their homes;

(5) Grief, loss, sadness, anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress reactions are pervasive among these children; and

(6) These children are seldom considered in the development of policies concerning, law enforcement, judiciary, parole, probation, public defenders, prosecutors, and child welfare.

SECTION 2. Governor's Commission for Children and Families with Incarcerated Parents.

(a) There is created the "Governor's Commission for Children and Families with Incarcerated Parents."

(b) The commission shall consist of thirteen (13) members appointed by the Governor as follows:



(1)(A) Two (2) members of the commission shall be community leaders or professionals that have served children of the incarcerated and their families for more than twelve (12) years

(B) Members appointed under subdivision (b)(1) of this section shall serve as cochairs of the commission;

(2) Two (2) members shall be adult children of incarcerated or previously incarcerated parents;

(3) Two (2) members shall be parents who have been incarcerated within the past twenty-four (24) months;

(4) Two (2) members shall be kinship caregivers of children of incarcerated parents;

(5) One (1) member shall be a parent educator of incarcerated parents within the Department of Correction;

(6) One (1) member shall be a mental health provider of specific services to children of the incarcerated;

(7) One (1) member shall be a court appointed special advocate volunteer with experience serving foster children of incarcerated parents;

(8) One (1) member shall be a policy analyst of the Governor's office; and

(9) One (1) member shall be a member of the State Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board or the member's designee.

(c)(1) Members appointed under subdivision (b)(1) of this section shall serve as cochairs of the commission.

(2) The commission shall meet as necessary at the determination of the cochairs.

(d) A quorum of the commission shall consist of seven (7) members.

(e) Members shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

(f) If a vacancy occurs on the commission, a successor shall be appointed in the same manner as provided in the initial appointment.

(g) The members of the commission shall serve without compensation and shall not receive per diem, mileage, or stipends.

SECTION 3. Filings with the Governor's Commission for Children and Families with Incarcerated Parents.

On or before October 1, 2008, the following shall provide a written review of their policies and procedures to the Governor's Commission for Children and Families with Incarcerated Parents:

(1) The Department of Correction;

(2) The Department of Community Correction;

(3) The Division of Children and Family Services of the Department of Health and Human Services; and

(4) Representatives of all state and local law enforcement agencies.

SECTION 4. Powers and duties.

The Governor's Commission for Children and Families with Incarcerated Parents shall:

(1) Review the reports provided under Section 3 of this act;

(2) Consider the impact of the policies and procedures contained in the reports on the children of arrested, incarcerated, or paroled parents and probationers; and

(3) Make recommendations to the entities filing the reports for

policy and improvements and changes that will:

(A) Result in improved well-being for children;

(B) Increase family ties between a child and his or her incarcerated parent; and

(C) Lower the risk that the children of incarcerated parents will be incarcerated themselves at some point.”

The Amendment was read the first time, rules suspended and read the second time and _____

By: Senator Brown

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Secretary