

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.

1 State of Arkansas
2 86th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2007
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 951

5 By: Senator Wilkins
6 By: Representatives E. Brown, Flowers
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

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9
10 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS EVALUATION CENTER;
11 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12

Subtitle

13
14 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS EVALUATION
15 CENTER.
16
17

18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
19

20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 5, is amended to add an
21 additional subchapter to read as follows:

22 6-5-1001. Legislative findings.

23 The General Assembly finds:

24 (1) Effective evaluation serves to enhance quality in existing
25 services and programs by:

26 (A) Ensuring accountability for funds and services used;

27 (B) Raising the bar for standards and expectations; and

28 (C) Increasing the use of data to inform program operation
29 and decision making.

30 (2) The general focus of effective evaluation is on programs and
31 services, but effective evaluation can be applied also to individuals,
32 organizations, communities, and societies or cultures.

33 (3) In a state where resources are often scarce, effective and
34 credible evaluation is the heart of a healthy system and is critical to
35 ensure that necessary programs and services are delivered and ineffective
36 programs and practices eliminated.



1 (4) To help groups accomplish their objectives, empowerment
2 evaluation and other collaborative forms of evaluation are particularly
3 useful in collaborative endeavors that require complex systems and diverse
4 groups.

5
6 6-5-1002. The Arkansas Evaluation Center.

7 (a) There is established within the Department of Higher Education the
8 Arkansas Evaluation Center to build evaluation capacity in the State of
9 Arkansas by:

10 (1) Assisting nonprofit corporations in their reporting
11 processes to their boards, funding agencies, the government, and the public;

12 (2) Expanding the service of evaluation research to nonprofit
13 corporations in the Arkansas Delta through the provision of data that helps
14 to account for resources and through a service delivery designed to advance
15 the quality of life in the Arkansas Delta;

16 (3) Assisting the General Assembly by evaluating the impact of
17 potential and existing legislation; and

18 (4) Fulfilling a commitment to fiscal and philosophical
19 accountability with the people of Arkansas by empowering the University of
20 Arkansas at Pine Bluff to provide nationally-recognized evaluation training.

21 (b) The Arkansas Evaluation Center shall be housed at the University
22 of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.

23
24 6-5-1003. Duties of the Arkansas Evaluation Center.

25 (a) The Arkansas Evaluation Center shall:

26 (1) Contribute to the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff by:

27 (A) Attracting students to existing courses;

28 (B) Providing new online and distance learning courses;

29 and

30 (C) Serving as a catalyst to stimulate university faculty
31 to conduct evaluation and research.

32 (2) Provide academic training that consists of a variety of
33 modalities, including courses, virtual classrooms, practicum, workshops, and
34 invited speakers;

35 (3) Assist the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff in offering
36 a series of evaluation-related courses, including qualitative or ethnographic

1 approaches, statistics, research design, evaluation approaches and methods,
2 and politics of evaluation, that will be provided primarily through the
3 university's Education Department; and

4 (4) Assist the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff in
5 developing and implementing the Certificate Program in Effective Evaluation
6 and the Masters Degree Program in Effective Evaluation.

7 (b) The center shall provide training on evaluation to a cadre of
8 professionals interested in pursuing study in evaluation through course work,
9 evaluation conference workshops, and invited lectures delivered by recognized
10 experts.

11
12 6-5-1004. Rules.

13 The Department of Higher Education shall promulgate rules for the
14 implementation of this subchapter.