

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 87th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2009  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2032

5 By: Representative Allen  
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7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS EARTHQUAKE PROGRAM  
10 BY INCREASING DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND DISASTER  
11 EVACUATION, SHELTERS, STOCKPILES, AND REBUILDING  
12 PLANS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
13

## Subtitle

14 AN ACT TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS EARTHQUAKE  
15 PROGRAM BY INCREASING DISASTER  
16 PREPAREDNESS.  
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19

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 12-77-103 is amended to read as follows:  
23 12-77-103. Arkansas earthquake program.

24 (a)(1) The Arkansas Department of Emergency Management, Earthquake  
25 Preparedness Program, shall coordinate an earthquake program designed to  
26 protect the lives and property of persons of this state, to the fullest  
27 possible extent, from the direct effects of seismic activity affecting  
28 Arkansas as well as from secondary effects created by such occurrence.

29 (2) The program shall coordinate all activities involved in  
30 mitigation and preparedness regarding seismic events. Toward that end, the  
31 earthquake program shall include but not be limited to:

32 (A) Continued assessment from proper scientific  
33 authorities of the seismic risk to the state;

34 (B) Training and education of state and local government  
35 officials, employees, and citizens of Arkansas regarding preparation and  
36 protective measures that can be taken before, during, and after an



1 earthquake;

2 (C) Planning coordination, guidance, and assistance to all  
3 state and local government officials in preparation for, response to , and  
4 recovery from earthquakes;

5 (D) Coordination of earthquake program activities with  
6 comparable agencies of the federal government and other states; and

7 (E) The dissemination of information to the public  
8 pertaining to earthquake hazards, especially to Arkansans living near the New  
9 Madrid Fault, protective measures, seismic resistance in building  
10 construction, and appropriate actions to be taken before, during, and after  
11 an earthquake, and other matters the Arkansas Department of Emergency  
12 Management shall determine to be necessary or appropriate to educate, inform,  
13 and equip citizens in this state to deal with any earthquake.

14 (b) In order to carry out the responsibilities ~~provided for in~~ under  
15 this section, the program ~~is authorized to~~ shall employ ~~such~~ personnel as  
16 ~~deemed necessary to the extent that funds are appropriated therefor by the~~  
17 ~~General Assembly.~~

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19 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 12, Chapter 77 is amended to add three  
20 additional sections to read as follows:

21 12-77-105. Purpose.

22 The purpose of §§ 12-77-105 through 12-77-107 is to:

23 (1) Increase disaster preparedness in Arkansas;

24 (2) Increase earthquake preparedness in all areas along the New  
25 Madrid Fault that have significant earthquake risk but a low level of public  
26 awareness; and

27 (3) Conduct a disaster preparedness study.

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29 12-77-106. Duties.

30 The Arkansas Department of Emergency Management in cooperation with the  
31 Arkansas Earthquake Authority shall create and coordinate a Disaster  
32 Preparedness Program designed to protect the lives and property of Arkansas  
33 citizens in case of flooding and other disasters and create public  
34 preparedness materials that can be disseminated to the public, including  
35 without limitation:

36 (1) Training and education of state and local government

1 officials, school districts, personnel, and citizens of Arkansas regarding  
2 preparation and protective measures that can be taken before, during, and  
3 after an earthquake;

4 (2) Planning coordination, guidance, and assistance to all state  
5 and local government officials in preparation for, response to, and recovery  
6 from flooding; and

7 (3) Coordination of the Disaster Preparedness Program activities  
8 with comparable agencies of the federal government and other states.

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10 12-77-107. Reports.

11 (a) The Arkansas Earthquake Authority and the Arkansas Department of  
12 Emergency Management shall commission a study on disaster preparedness  
13 including a review of the New Madrid Fault.

14 (b) The commission and the department shall make recommendations for  
15 improvements to the cochairs of the Legislative Council on or before November  
16 1 each year.

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