

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

A Bill

SENATE BILL 1002

4
5 By: Senator Steele

For An Act To Be Entitled

6
7
8 AN ACT TO MODIFY THE ARKANSAS MINORITY HEALTH
9 COMMISSION AND TO EXPAND AND CLARIFY THE DUTIES
10 OF THE COMMISSION.
11

Subtitle

12
13 TO MODIFY THE ARKANSAS MINORITY HEALTH
14 COMMISSION AND TO EXPAND AND CLARIFY THE
15 DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.
16

17
18
19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

20
21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code §§ 20-2-102 and 20-2-103 are amended to read
22 as follows:

23 20-2-102. Creation – Members – Compensation.

24 (a) There is established the Arkansas Minority Health Commission to
25 consist of twelve (12) members to be appointed as follows:

26 (1) ~~Four (4)~~ Six (6) members of the general public to be
27 appointed by the Governor, with each of the four (4) congressional districts
28 represented;

29 (2) ~~Two (2)~~ Three (3) members to be appointed by the President
30 Pro Tempore of the Senate; and

31 (3) ~~Two (2)~~ Three (3) members to be appointed by the Speaker of
32 the House of Representatives; and

33 ~~(4) The Director of the Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse~~
34 ~~Prevention or his or her designee;~~

35 ~~(5) The Director of the Division of Aging and Adult Services of~~
36 ~~the Department of Human Services or his or her designee;~~



1 ~~(6) The Director of the Department of Health or his or her~~
 2 ~~designee; and~~

3 ~~(7) The Director of the Division of Behavioral Health of the~~
 4 ~~Department of Human Services or his or her designee.~~

5 (b) All persons appointed to the commission shall be persons who have
 6 actively participated in health issues for minorities or have special
 7 knowledge or experience with minority health issues.

8 (c) The members shall serve staggered two-year terms.

9 (d)(1) The commission shall meet at least quarterly and at such other
 10 times as necessary to carry out its duties under this chapter.

11 (2) The commission shall elect one (1) of its members as chair
 12 and may provide by appropriate adoption of bylaws and rules for the time,
 13 place, and manner of calling its meetings.

14 ~~(e) [Repealed.]~~

15 ~~(f) The agencies represented on the commission may enter into an~~
 16 ~~agreement to pay appropriate costs of the commission and clerical and support~~
 17 ~~staff.~~

18 ~~(g)~~(e) Any state agency, state-supported hospital, or state medical
 19 school shall submit to the commission any information the commission requests
 20 that relates to health issues for minorities except for names, addresses,
 21 telephone numbers, or any other identifying information.

22
 23 20-2-103. Powers and duties generally.

24 (a) The Arkansas Minority Health Commission shall:

25 (1) Establish the commission as the comprehensive agency in this
 26 state for:

27 (A) Gathering and analyzing information regarding
 28 disparities in health and health care and access to health and health care
 29 services in this state;

30 (B) Statewide educational programming regarding
 31 disparities in health and health care and equity to health and health care
 32 services; and

33 (C) Coordinating events regarding disparities in health
 34 and health care and access to health and health care services.

35 (2)(A) Actively seek out and develop partnerships and
 36 collaboration with other appropriate organizations to advance the

1 understanding of and access to programs to remediate disparities in health
 2 and health care and access to health and health care services in this state.

3 (B) The following health and health care related state
 4 agencies and divisions of state agencies shall collaborate with the Arkansas
 5 Minority Health Commission to achieve health care equity in the State of
 6 Arkansas:

7 (i) The Department of Health;

8 (ii) The Department of Human Services;

9 (ii) The Arkansas Department of Environmental
 10 Quality;

11 (iii) The Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health of
 12 the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences; and

13 (iv) The Arkansas Center for Health Improvement.

14 (C) Partnerships developed by the commission shall connect
 15 all experts, agencies, and organizations concerned with minority health
 16 issues and minority health events;

17 ~~(1)(3) Study issues relating to the delivery of and access to~~
 18 ~~health services for minorities in this state~~ Address and make specific
 19 recommendations relating to public policy issues involving disparities in
 20 health and health care and equity to health and health care services for
 21 minorities to appropriate agencies, the General Assembly, and the Governor;

22 ~~(2)(4) Identify any gaps in the health service delivery system~~
 23 ~~that particularly affect minorities~~ Promote public awareness and public
 24 education encouraging Arkansans to live healthy lifestyles through awareness
 25 of various health and health care issues with an emphasis on factors that
 26 disproportionately affect the minority population in this state;

27 ~~(3)(5) Make recommendations to the relevant agencies, to the~~
 28 Governor and to the General Assembly for improving the delivery of and access
 29 to health services for minorities; ~~and~~

30 ~~(4)(6) Study~~ Gather and analyze information and make
 31 recommendations as to whether adequate services are available to ensure that
 32 future minority health needs will be met;

33 (7)(A) Develop, implement, maintain, and disseminate a
 34 comprehensive survey of racial and ethnic minority disparities in health and
 35 health care.

36 (B) The commission shall repeat the study every five (5)

1 years to include without limitation disparities arising from geographic
2 location and economic conditions; and

3 (8) Publish evidence-based data, define state goals and
4 objectives, and develop pilot projects for decreasing disparities under
5 subdivision (5)(A) of this section.

6 (b) The commission shall report two (2) times each year to the House
7 Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor and the Senate Committee on
8 Public Health, Welfare, and Labor.

9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36