

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1689

4
5 By: Representatives Vaught, Gazaway, M. Gray

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE STUDY ON
9 MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

12 TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE STUDY
13 ON MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH.

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

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19 SECTION 1. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. Arkansas Legislative
20 Study on Mental and Behavioral Health – Creation – Duties.

21 (a)(1) The Joint Performance Review Committee shall meet to conduct
22 the Arkansas Legislative Study on Mental Health.

23 (b)(1) The cochairs of the Joint Performance Review Committee shall
24 call the first meeting for the purpose of beginning the study within
25 sixty (60) days of the effective date of this act.

26 (2) The Joint Performance Review Committee shall meet at least
27 one (1) time every two (2) months in order to conduct the study but may meet
28 more often at the call of the cochairs.

29 (c) The purpose of the study is to assess the strengths and weaknesses
30 of the mental and behavioral health resources and care currently available in
31 the State of Arkansas and to recommend legislation to the General Assembly
32 regarding best practices and improvements within the area of mental and
33 behavioral health care for consideration during the 2023 Regular Session.

34 (d) In order to achieve the purpose of this section, the Joint
35 Performance Review Committee shall study the following:

36 (1) Access to and availability of mental and behavioral health



1 care within this state;

2 (2) Existing mental and behavioral healthcare facilities in this
 3 state;

4 (3) Medicaid programs regarding mental and behavioral health and
 5 other public and private medical reimbursements for mental and behavioral
 6 healthcare providers and facilities within and without this state;

7 (4) Best practices for provision of mental ad behavioral health
 8 services;

9 (5) Mental and behavioral health programs in other states;

10 (6) The utilization and financial condition of the crisis
 11 stabilization units and the Arkansas State Hospital;

12 (7) Transportation of mental and behavioral health patients in
 13 Arkansas;

14 (8) The rate of deaths by suicide of school-aged children in
 15 this state;

16 (9) Mental health screenings and suicide prevention measures for
 17 children in kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12); and

18 (10) Other matters related to mental and behavioral health
 19 services.

20 (e)(1) On or before December 1, 2022, the Joint Performance Review
 21 Committee shall file with the Legislative Council a final written report of
 22 its activities, findings, and recommendations.

23 (2) Upon filing, the Arkansas Legislative Study on Mental and
 24 Behavioral Health shall be complete.

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