

Hall of the House of Representatives
83rd General Assembly - Regular Session, 2001
Amendment Form

Subtitle of House Bill No. 2524

"AN ACT TO INCLUDE THE DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH UNDER THE "ARKANSAS
CHILD WELFARE PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY ACT"."

Amendment No. 1 to House Bill No. 2524.

Amend House Bill No. 2524 as originally introduced:

Page 1, line 34, insert the following:

"SECTION 2. Arkansas Code 9-32-203 is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) The Division of Youth Services, the Division of Mental Health, and the Division of Children and Family Services are hereby directed to issue to the Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth of the General Assembly a quarterly report on the performance of the child welfare system.

(2) These quarterly reports will be known as the Division of Youth Services, the Division of Mental Health, and the Division of Children and Family Services Quarterly Performance Reports and shall be transmitted to the Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth no later than thirty (30) calendar days after the end of each calendar quarter.

(b) The Division of Youth Services, the Division of Mental Health, and the Division of Children and Family Services Quarterly Performance Reports shall contain, but not be limited to:

- (1) Client outcome information;
- (2) Case status information;
- (3) Compliance information;
- (4) Management indicators; and
- (5) Other data agreed to by the Senate Interim Committee on

Children and Youth, the Division of Mental Health, and the Division of Children and Family Services and the Division of Youth Services.

(c) The Division of Mental Health shall report information by mental health catchment areas with actual totals.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code 9-32-204 is amended to read as follows:

9-32-204. Annual performance reports - Arkansas Child Welfare Report Card.

(a)(1) The Division of Youth Services, the Division of Mental Health, and the Division of Children and Family Services shall issue an annual report on the performance of the child welfare system on a county-by-county basis. The Division of Mental Health will report information by mental health catchment areas with state totals.

(2) This annual report will be known as the Arkansas Child Welfare Report Card.

(b) The Arkansas Child Welfare Report Card shall contain, but not be limited to, for each county and the state as a whole:

- (1) Client outcome information;
- (2) Case status information;
- (3) Compliance information;
- (4) Management indicators; and
- (5) Other data specified by the Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth.

(c) The Arkansas Child Welfare Report Card shall be published and transmitted to the Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth no later than December 1 of each year, and it must be published in a format that can be easily understood by the general public.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code 9-32-205 is amended to read as follows:

9-32-205. Annual performance audits.

(a) The Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth shall conduct annual performance audits of the Division of Youth Services, the Division of Mental Health, and the Division of Children and Family Services.

(b) To establish performance auditing standards, the Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth shall use for guidance the Standards for Audit of Governmental Organizations, Programs, Activities and Functions (revised), published by the United States General Accounting Office.

(c) The performance audits shall contain, but not be limited to, a complete assessment of the Division of Youth Services', the Division of Mental Health, and the Division of Children and Family Services' compliance with state and federal regulations and with the terms and conditions of the court-ordered settlement agreement.

(d) To conduct the performance audit, the Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth may utilize surveys, client interviews, and other research methodology that it deems necessary.

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code 9-32-206 is amended to read as follows:

9-32-206. Provision of information and assistance.

(a) The Division of Youth Services, the Division of Mental Health, and the Division of Children and Family Services shall make available to the Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth a list of all reports the unit submits to the Director of the Department of Human Services.

(b) Under the direction of the Director of the Department of Human Services, the Division of Youth Services, the Division of Mental Health, and the Division of Children and Family Services shall work cooperatively with and provide any necessary assistance to the Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth.

(c) The Notwithstanding any agency rules or regulations to the contrary, the Division of Youth Services, the Division of Mental Health, and the Division of Children and Family Services shall furnish information to members of the General Assembly, legislative staff, or legislative committees immediately upon request.

SECTION 6. Arkansas Code Title 12, Chapter 8, Subchapter 5 is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

12-8-508. Provision of information and assistance.

Notwithstanding rules or regulations to the contrary, the Family Protection Unit shall, upon request of a member of the General Assembly, legislative staff, or upon request of a legislative committee, immediately provide information requested with respect to child welfare as contemplated under the Arkansas Child Welfare Public Accountability Act beginning at § 9-32-201."

The Amendment was read _____

By: Representative Carson

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Chief Clerk