

Hall of the House of Representatives
86th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2007
Amendment Form

Subtitle of House Bill No. 2211

"AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS CHILD HEALTH RESOURCES PROGRAM TO
PROVIDE HEALTH IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN."

Amendment No. 1 to House Bill No. 2211.

Amend House Bill No. 2211 as originally introduced:

Page 1, delete line 5 and substitute the following:

"By: Representatives Key, Creekmore"

AND

Page 1, delete lines 9 through 12 and substitute the following:

"AN ACT CONCERNING EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR CHILD CARE FACILITIES; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES."

AND

Page 1, delete lines 15 through 18 and substitute the following:

"THE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR CHILD CARE FACILITIES ACT."

AND

Delete everything following the enacting clause and substitute the following:

"SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Emergency Preparedness for Child Care Facilities Act".

SECTION 2. Legislative intent.

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Early care and education facilities at which children from birth to four (4) years of age and school-age children may spend part or all of their days may not be known to emergency preparedness agencies and thus may be overlooked in first response activities and in recovery planning following major disasters;

(2) The health and social-emotional, cognitive, and physical development of young children may be compromised by severe traumatic experiences;



(3) Teachers and caregivers of young children will improve the children's health and well being by being prepared for orderly evacuations and rapid reunification of young children with their parents during emergencies;

(4) Child care facilities are crucial to the economic redevelopment of communities following major disasters; and

(5) State child care and emergency management agencies should take steps to share data and coordinate planning, response, and recovery of child care facilities during and after major disasters.

SECTION 3. Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education policies.

The Director of the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education of the Department of Health and Human Services shall coordinate efforts with other state agencies and appropriate organizations to:

(1)(A) Share with the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management on a quarterly basis an integrated list of all licensed child care facilities and all known license-exempt child care facilities, including without limitation physical addresses, maximum capacity, emergency contact information, hours of operation, and status as tuition subsidy, meal subsidy, state-funded pre-kindergarten, and quality-rated facilities.

(B) The integrated list is to be sorted by county;

(2) Identify designated emergency shelters, including without limitation local shelters and mass evacuation shelters, in proximity to all licensed child care facilities and all known license-exempt facilities, identify three (3) designated shelters in closest proximity to each child care facility, and notify each child care facility annually of the locations of those shelters;

(3) Coordinate efforts to notify the state emergency management agency of the estimated number of children in child care facilities who could be evacuated to each shelter;

(4) Require all licensed child care facilities to notify parents annually of the shelters designated by the division as being in closest proximity to those facilities;

(5) Include early childhood emergency preparedness courses and workshops that address specific risk factors and evacuation procedures in particular geographic areas among approved courses and workshops for meeting requirements for in-service training for licensed child care providers in those geographic areas; and

(6) Incorporate specific indicators of emergency preparedness, linked to specific disaster risk factors in providers' geographic areas, into each level of any quality ratings above minimum licensing standards.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Department of Emergency Management policies.

The Director of the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management shall coordinate efforts with other state agencies and appropriate organizations to:

(1) Disseminate county-level lists of all licensed child care facilities and all known license-exempt facilities, including without limitation physical address, maximum capacity, hours of operation, and emergency contact information, to county governments for use in search and rescue during emergencies and disasters;

(2) Share a periodically updated statewide list of designated emergency shelters, both local shelters and mass evacuation shelters, with the state child care licensing agency, state child care subsidy program, and state child and adult nutrition program when such a list is available; and

(3) Include child care facilities where critical facilities such as schools, hospitals, and nursing homes are mentioned in the state response plan, emergency preparedness exercises, or other guiding documents and activities.”

The Amendment was read _____

By: Representative Everett

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Chief Clerk