

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.

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2007-059

State of Arkansas
86th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2007

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2402

By: Representative Blount

Referred to
Education Committee- House
by the House of Representatives
on 03/21/2007

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE HOME INSTRUCTION FOR PARENTS OF PRESCHOOL YOUNGSTERS PROGRAM ("HIPPY") AS THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMPONENT FOR ALL PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS IN ARKANSAS THAT RECEIVE FEDERAL FUNDS; TO ENGAGE THE STATE HIPPY STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN DEVELOPING THE METHODS NECESSARY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PROCESS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE HOME INSTRUCTION FOR PARENTS OF PRESCHOOL YOUNGSTERS PROGRAM AS A PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMPONENT OF ALL FEDERALLY-FUNDED ARKANSAS PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS.

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

SECTION 1. Purpose and Findings.

(a) The purpose of this act is to increase literacy from preschool through adulthood, ensuring that the parent as the child's first teacher is

1 literate and successful as a teaching parent.

2 (b) Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) is an
 3 international parent involvement program for preschool parents and has a
 4 proven track record of improving the literacy of parents and their children.

5 (c) Children who have parental support at home are more successful in
 6 school, and are less likely to dropout and engage in at-risk behaviors.

7 (d) Children who start school without the basic skills needed in first
 8 grade are more likely to experience academic, social and emotional problems.

9 (e) Alternative education, special education, and supplemental
 10 services programs have an increased number of referrals due in part to a lack
 11 of parental involvement and poor student academic performance. Discipline
 12 problems and prison populations have increased, and parent involvement in
 13 schools has decreased.

14 (f) Teaching parents how to help their children before they start
 15 school establishes a pattern of parental support for education and increases
 16 the probability that the parents will follow that pattern as long as the
 17 child is in school.

18 (g) Many parents have improved their literacy skills, gone back to
 19 school, and entered the work force.

20 (h) Higher education needs to provide more remediation and tutorial
 21 programs due to the lack of preparedness of college students.

22 (i) The federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLBA) provides for parent
 23 involvement for school programs, and the addition of preschool programs
 24 during this reauthorization period for NCLBA would be a wonderful advancement
 25 for the state of Arkansas as the leader of this new educational concept.

26 (j) The Department of Workforce Education and the Department of Health
 27 and Human Services shall be a part of this initiative because a number of
 28 their clients will benefit from the effort.

29 (k) The economic growth of the state is dependent upon the academic
 30 level and the employable skills of the workforce. This assurance must start
 31 with preschool parents and their children.

32
 33 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 3 is amended
 34 to add an additional section read as follows:

35 6-16-314. Parental involvement.

36 (a) Each early childhood program in this state that receives federal

1 funds shall include the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters
2 program as a parental involvement component of the early childhood program.

3 (b) The Department of Health and Human Services shall establish rules
4 to implement the parental involvement component of early childhood programs,
5 with the cooperation and assistance of the Department of Workforce Education.