

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2011-194

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3 REQUESTING THAT THE INTERIM SENATE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND
4 YOUTH COMMITTEE CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE,
5 SPECIFICALLY HOW FALSE REPORTS MADE TO THE CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE
6 ARE HANDLED.

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8 WHEREAS, the Child Abuse Hotline serves the vital function of taking in
9 reports of child abuse in Arkansas; and

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11 WHEREAS, on occasion, false reports of child maltreatment are reported
12 to the Child Abuse Hotline; and

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14 WHEREAS, the accused individual in a false report is subject to
15 significant emotional distress during the investigation process; and

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17 WHEREAS, current state law permits individuals who make false reports
18 to be prosecuted and convicted of a Class A misdemeanor for the first offense
19 and a Class D felony for subsequent offenses; and

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21 WHEREAS, it is our obligation to encourage the reporting of all
22 suspected child maltreatment while at the same time keeping effective
23 mechanisms in place to deter individuals from making false reports,

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25 NOW THEREFORE,

26 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE INTERIM SENATE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH OF THE
27 EIGHTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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29 THAT the Interim Senate Committee on Children and Youth Committee
30 conduct a study of the Child Abuse Hotline, specifically how false reports
31 made to the Child Abuse Hotline are handled.

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33 BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED, that the study include, at a minimum:

- 34 (a) A review of the Child Abuse Hotline reporting process;
35 (b) A review of the Child Abuse Hotline investigation process;
36 (c) A review of how false reports made to the Child Abuse Hotline are

1 handled; and

2 (d) The number of false reports made to the Child Abuse Hotline in
3 each of the past 5 years, including those that have been prosecuted.

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5 Respectfully submitted,

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9 Senator Jimmy Jeffress

10 District 24

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15 By: SAG/KFW

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