

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2011-202

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3 REQUESTING THAT THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND
4 LABOR STUDY THE PROGRAM FOR CONDITIONAL RELEASE FROM THE ARKANSAS
5 STATE HOSPITAL.

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7 WHEREAS, Arkansas Code § 5-2-315 authorizes the conditional release of
8 persons who have been committed to the Arkansas State Hospital after having
9 been found not guilty of a crime on the basis of mental disease or defect,
10 but who are deemed to be no longer harmful to themselves or to others or to
11 property; and

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13 WHEREAS, a person on conditional release from the Arkansas State
14 Hospital allegedly rammed his vehicle into a group of Jacksonville
15 firefighters, killing one and injuring two others; and

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17 WHEREAS, even though the person had allegedly engaged in other
18 dangerous acts while on conditional release, apparently no action for
19 revocation had been taken; and

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21 WHEREAS, the system appears to have fallen short in this case in:
22 (1) Determining who should receive conditional release;
23 (2) Overseeing persons on conditional release; and
24 (3) Determining who should be returned from conditional release
25 to the Arkansas State Hospital,

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27 NOW THEREFORE,

28 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR OF
29 THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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31 THAT the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor study the
32 program for conditional release from the Arkansas State Hospital.

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35 Respectfully submitted,

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Representative Mark Perry

District 44

By: MGF/CDS