

State of Arkansas

76th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1987

SENATE BILL 341

By: Senators Chaffin, Hopkins, Canada, Yates and Fitch

"AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE STATE HOSPITAL BOARD TO TRANSFER THE FACILITIES FROM LITTLE ROCK TO BENTON; TO REQUIRE THAT SUCH BE DONE BY JULY 1, 1987; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. The State Hospital Board as established pursuant to Act 433 of 1971, as amended, is hereby authorized and directed to transfer all operations of the State Hospital now located in Little Rock, Arkansas, to the Benton Service Center in Benton, Arkansas, by July 1, 1987.

SECTION 2. After July 1, 1987, the Benton Service Center shall be known as the Arkansas State Hospital.

SECTION 3. The State Hospital Board is hereby empowered to effectuate the smooth transition of relocation of the State Hospital as set forth herein. The Board Shall:

(A) Transfer personnel needed to maintain quality health care now employed by the Little Rock facility to the Benton facility.

(B) Transfer all patients committed to the State Hospital at Little Rock under Act 817 of 1979, as amended, Act 34 of the First Extraordinary Session of 1980, as amended, Section 16 of Act 593 of 1981 and Section 26 of Act 734 of 1981 or any successor acts replacing these to the Benton facility before July 1, 1987.

(C) Transfer such equipment, supplies and furnishings it deems necessary from the Little Rock facility to the Benton facility to adequately accomodate the patient caseload.

(D) Take appropriate measures to refurbish and renovate existing facilities at the Benton unit to adequately house the patients and necessary staff.

(E) Such other action it deems necessary to effectuate the transfer of the facility.

SECTION 4. A portion of the appropriations made to the State Hospital at Little Rock shall hereafter be transferred to the Benton unit for use by the Board in carrying out the intent and purpose of this act. The Board shall determine those amounts necessary to adequately fund the Benton unit.

SECTION 5. After July 1, 1987, the State Hospital facilities at Little Rock which currently house those patients mentioned in Section 3 (B) hereof shall be vacated by the State Hospital and such facilities subject to that use which the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas may hereafter designate.

SECTION 6. EMERGENCY. It is hereby found and determined by the General Assembly that the State Hospital should be transferred to Benton, Arkansas effective the beginning of the next fiscal year; that unless an emergency clause is adopted, this Act may not go into effect until after the beginning of the next fiscal year, and therefore an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

