

State of Arkansas

77th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1989

A Bill

SENATE BILL

62

By: Senator Hopkins

For An Act To Be Entitled

"AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE §25-16-206 TO ESTABLISH THE DIVISION OF VOLUNTEERISM IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES; TO PROVIDE FOR THE POSITION OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR WHO SHALL BE THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE DIVISION; TO PRESCRIBE AND CLARIFY THE AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DIVISION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code §25-16-206 is hereby amended as follows:

"25-16-206. Office of Volunteer Services. (a) There is created in the Department of Human Services a Division of Volunteerism.

(b) Administrative assistance to coordinate the activities of the Division shall be given by a Deputy Director for Volunteerism who will devote full time to the duties of the office and assume the responsibility for carrying out the duties prescribed by this section. The Deputy Director shall employ, subject to appropriation by the General Assembly, any employees who are necessary to carry out the goals of the office.

(c) The duties and responsibilities of the Division of Volunteerism are as follows:

(1) To assess and recognize the needs of communities throughout Arkansas and to recruit, train, and coordinate volunteers and volunteer organizations in meeting those needs;

(2) To assist in specific projects involving volunteers to meet community needs;

(3) To provide greater public awareness and recognition of volunteer efforts.

(d) The program and staff of the Division of Volunteerism will be assisted by an advisory council. It will be the responsibility of this

council to assist the staff in setting goals, establishing priority activities, performing an advocacy role and assisting in funding and resource development and publicity and recognition and awards programs. Council members shall be appointed by the Governor from existing state, local, and private agencies which operate volunteer programs and shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor."

SECTION 2. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

SECTION 3. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

SECTION 4. Emergency. It is hereby found and determined by the General Assembly that the present law provides for an Office of Volunteerism which was created in the Office of the Governor; that the Governor has transferred the duties to the Department of Human Services by Executive Directive; that the volunteer services program is of great importance to the various state and local agencies and communities throughout the State and that in order to promote, assist, and assure the future success of the volunteer program in the State it is essential that the agency responsible for promoting and administering the program be given better continuity and stature by being established as a Division of the Department of Human Services; that this act is designed to accomplish this purpose and in order to expedite the establishment of the Division of Volunteerism and to simplify the transition, it is desirable that this act be given effect on July 1, 1989. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this act being necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall be in effect on and after July 1, 1989.