

1 State of Arkansas  
2 80th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 1995  
4 By: Representatives Willems and Goodwin

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1516

## For An Act To Be Entitled

"AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE CONTINUATION OF HEAD START AS A  
PRIORITY OF THE STATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

### Subtitle

"AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE CONTINUATION OF  
HEAD START AS A PRIORITY OF THE STATE."

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

SECTION 1. It is found and determined by the General Assembly that Head Start is a comprehensive early childhood program for low-income children and their families. Head Start has nearly thirty (30) years of experience and is guided by a demanding set of program performance guidelines. Head Start has been successful in improving the lives of many low-income children and their families. Studies of Head Start programs show a positive effect on children's cognitive skills, self-esteem, achievement motivation, and social behavior. The program has a positive impact on school readiness. Therefore, it is the purpose of this act to recognize the importance of Head Start and to declare that the continuation of the program is a priority of this state.

SECTION 2. *If in the future federal funds for the Head Start program are included in a block grant with other program funds, the Head Start program shall receive such priority of funding from the block grant funds as will assure that the Head Start program receives a portion of the funds at least equal to the percentage that the dedicated funds received for the Head Start program for the last year funds were specifically dedicated to the program bears to the total funds received during that year for all programs included in the block grant. Only programs that meet program performance*

1 *standards of Head Start shall receive priority funding as provided for*  
2 *herein.*

3

4 SECTION 3. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent  
5 nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas  
6 Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

7

8 SECTION 4. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to  
9 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect  
10 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without  
11 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this  
12 act are declared to be severable.

13

14 SECTION 5. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are  
15 hereby repealed.

16

17 */s/Rep. Willems, et al*

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

*As Engrossed: 2/15/95*

**HB 1516**

1  
2  
3

**0131950954.mih580**