

1 State of Arkansas
2 80th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1995

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1765

4 By: Representatives J. Smith, Flanagan, Cunningham, Pollan, M. Wilson, Brown,
5 Northcutt, Beatty, Booker, Schexnayder, von Grep, Hogue, Wilkins, Ferrell,
6 J. Wilson, M. Jones, Goodwin, Choate, Owens, Argue, Madison, Bennett, Lynn,
7 Sheppard, Townsend, Dawson, Roberts, Angel, Harris, Willems, *Wallis, McGee,*
8 *Ferguson, T. Smith, Wagner, Simmons, Wren, Stalnaker, Mitchell, Lancaster and*
9 *Critcher*

10

11

12

For An Act To Be Entitled

13

14

15

16

17

18

"AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE COMMON GROUND PROGRAM FOR
ARKANSAS COMMUNITIES IN COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENTS
OF HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND EDUCATION; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES."

19

20

21

22

23

Subtitle

"TO ESTABLISH THE COMMON GROUND PROGRAM
FOR ARKANSAS COMMUNITIES IN COORDINATION
WITH THE DEPARTMENTS OF HEALTH, HUMAN
SERVICES AND EDUCATION."

24

25

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

26

27

SECTION 1. The General Assembly, in response to the recommendations
from the Governor's Summit on Youth Violence Prevention, finds that:

28

29

30

(1) For too many Arkansas children, the environment in which they live
prevents their healthy development, resulting in school failure, substance
abuse, teen pregnancy, violence and other destructive behaviors;

31

32

33

(2) Intervention or treatment programs and punishment or incarceration
are far more costly than working to prevent destructive behaviors from
occurring;

34

35

(3) An environment where youth can grow up healthy, safe, succeeding
in school, participating in community life and ready to enter productive

1 adulthood is inseparable from the well-being of families and the safety,
2 stability and economic viability of the neighborhoods and communities where
3 they live;

4 (4) New relationships are needed between state government, local
5 communities, public and private service agencies and the families and young
6 people who need services, so that help will be more accessible, easier to use
7 and more effective;

8 (5) Better evaluation tools are needed to identify youth crime
9 prevention programs that are working and those that are not, so that scarce
10 resources can be more effectively utilized;

11 (6) A better communication system is needed to connect and streamline
12 the array of services, coalitions and committees already under way, to track
13 programs and publicize successful models; and

14 (7) Solving the current problems of youth cannot be accomplished in a
15 short-term program but will take a long-term commitment on the part of state
16 and local government and all those who touch the lives of our youth.

17 Therefore, there is established the Common Ground Program, as a bridge
18 connecting and assisting government, communities and citizens to build a more
19 responsive human educational and economic system where children and families
20 can thrive.

21

22 *SECTION 2. (a) The Common Ground Program shall function under the*
23 *auspices of the Governor's Partnership Council for Children and Families.*
24 *The Common Ground Program Committee shall be comprised of twenty-one (21)*
25 *members to serve at the pleasure of the Governor with eighteen (18) appointed*
26 *by the Governor as follows:*

27 (1) *One (1) member shall be a state Senator;*

28 (2) *One (1) member shall be a state Representative;*

29 (3) *Two (2) members shall be representatives of the Youth*
30 *Commission to be selected from a list of three (3) names per position*
31 *submitted by the Youth Commission; and*

32 (4) *Fourteen (14) members shall be culturally diverse*
33 *representatives of the statewide community at-large, and may include parents,*
34 *educators, representatives of religious organizations, health care*
35 *professionals, youth service providers, law enforcement officers,*

1 representatives of private business and those working in the juvenile justice
2 system;

3 (5) The three (3) directors of the Departments of Health, Human
4 Services and Education, or their respective designees, shall be members of
5 the Committee.

6 (b) Members of the council shall serve without compensation, but may,
7 to the extent monies are appropriated therefor and subject to reasonable
8 limitations established by the Department of Finance and Administration, be
9 reimbursed for actual reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of
10 their official duties in accordance with rates and standards for
11 reimbursement of state employees.

12

13 SECTION 3. (a) The Common Ground Program Committee shall select a
14 chairperson.

15 (b) The Committee shall hold its initial meeting not later than
16 September, 1995, and shall continue to hold meetings, as needed to complete
17 its work, until March 1, 1997, at which time it shall dissolve unless
18 extended by the General Assembly.

19 (c) The activities of the Committee shall be governed by the rules
20 established by the Governor's Partnership Council for Children and Families.

21

22 SECTION 4. The Common Ground Program Committee shall have
23 responsibility to:

24 (1) Collaborate with the Youth Commission and any other organization
25 or entity that will provide information or support in developing and
26 implementing the Common Ground Program;

27 (2) Periodically review grants and make recommendations as needed to
28 the Governor's Partnership Council for Children and Families regarding the
29 performance of grantees;

30 (3) Develop and recommend to the Governor's Partnership Council for
31 Children and Families criteria and priorities for a grant program to be based
32 on the recommendations from the Governor's Youth Summit on Violence
33 Prevention and, if the Committee is extended beyond March 1, 1997, on
34 regional summits thereafter;

35 (4) Recommend grant recipients to the Governor's Partnership Council

1 *for Children and Families using the criteria and priorities established by*
2 *the Council;*

3 *(5) Develop information about the program that the Governor's*
4 *Partnership Council for Children and Families can use to disseminate*
5 *information to the general public; and*

6 *(6) Report the results of the program to the Governor's Partnership*
7 *Council for Children and Families to be included in a report to the Governor*
8 *and General Assembly.*

9

10 *SECTION 5. (a) The Arkansas Department of Health shall be the agency*
11 *designated to serve as the administrative and fiscal agent for the Common*
12 *Ground Program. The department will carry out these responsibilities under*
13 *the direction of the Governor_s Partnership Council for Children and*
14 *Families.*

15 *(b) Funds appropriated for the Common Ground Program may only be used*
16 *for activities in support of the program which have been approved by the*
17 *Governor_s Partnership Council for Children and Families. Up to fifteen*
18 *percent (15%) of the funds can be used for program planning, administration,*
19 *technical assistance, and evaluation; clearinghouse activities; and Common*
20 *Ground Committee expenses.*

21 *(c) The Arkansas Department of Health shall have the following*
22 *authority as fiscal agent for the Common Ground Program:*

23 *(1) To disburse Common Ground Program grant funds to qualifying*
24 *entities as directed by the Governor_s Partnership Council for Children and*
25 *Families;*

26 *(2) To submit applications on behalf of the Governor_s*
27 *Partnership Council for Children and Families for funds which may become*
28 *available from public and private sources which would be used to implement*
29 *the activities of the Common Ground Program; and*

30 *(3) To contract for fund raising and fiscal*
31 *investment/management services.*

32 *(d) The Department of Health shall carry out or contract for the*
33 *following administrative functions for the Common Ground Program:*

34 *(1) Establish, in the Offices of Drug Abuse Prevention and*
35 *Disability Prevention in the Department of Health, a Clearinghouse for Youth*

1 *Crime Prevention Programs, which shall:*

2 (A) *Maintain a data base that tracks successful youth*
3 *crime prevention programs in Arkansas and other states;*

4 (B) *Develop procedures for the collection of information*
5 *about youth crime prevention programs in conjunction with the Common Ground*
6 *Program Committee; and*

7 (C) *Develop procedures for the dissemination of*
8 *information about youth crime prevention programs in conjunction with the*
9 *Common Ground Program Committee.*

10 (2) *Develop and administer an outreach and grant program*
11 *component, which shall:*

12 (A) *Conduct public education activities in regard to the*
13 *Common Ground Program Committee and programs developed thereunder;*

14 (B) *Assist groups in developing grant applications and*
15 *implementing youth crime prevention programs; and*

16 (C) *Oversee regional summits, which shall be a meeting of*
17 *representatives of local communities to identify problems relative to youth*
18 *crime and suggest funding priorities.*

19 (3) *Develop and administer evaluation, assessment and reporting*
20 *components, which will evaluate grant recipients and collect other*
21 *information about youth crime prevention programs to enhance the success of*
22 *the Common Ground Program.*

23

24 SECTION 6. *Priority for Common Ground Program grants shall be given to*
25 *applicants that:*

26 (1) *Provide matching funds for the youth crime prevention program in*
27 *an amount equal to at least fifty (50%) of the grant award. Matching funds*
28 *may be in cash or in goods and services; and*

29 (2) *Demonstrate support for the youth crime prevention program from*
30 *the local community, including elected officials.*

31

32 SECTION 7. *All provisions of this act of a general and permanent*
33 *nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas*
34 *Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.*

35

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

6

7 SECTION 9. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
8 hereby repealed.

9

/s/Rep. J. Smith, et al

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

.As Engrossed: 2/22/95 3/1/95 3/7/95 3/8/95 3/13/95

HB 1765

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8

0220951348.vj316