

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

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1795

4 By: Representatives Pollan, Owens, Hall, McJunkin, McGinnis, Hunton,  
5 Townsend, Wallis, Flanagan, Madison  
6 By: Senators Scott and Walters

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## For An Act To Be Entitled

10 "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THERAPEUTIC GROUP HOMES AND  
11 INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH; AND FOR OTHER  
12 PURPOSES."

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## Subtitle

15 "TO ESTABLISH THERAPEUTIC GROUP HOMES  
16 AND INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAMS FOR  
17 F.I.N.S. AND DELINQUENT YOUTH."

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

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21 SECTION 1. In a significant number of cases, the health, safety,  
22 welfare and basic emotional needs of children are not being met by remaining  
23 with their families. In certain situations, therapeutic group homes and  
24 independent living programs can provide the sense of structure, continuity,  
25 stability, and the positive role models that are necessary for a child to  
26 become a productive citizen; and these alternative living environments are  
27 far less expensive than maintaining a child in the penal system. Therefore,  
28 it is the intent of this legislation to establish Therapeutic Group Homes and  
29 Independent Living Programs for youth in strategic areas throughout Arkansas  
30 for the purpose of intervention.

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32 SECTION 2. As used in this act:

33 (1) "Division" means the Division of Youth Services of the Department  
34 of Human Services;

35 (2) "Therapeutic group homes" mean small family-like group living

1 facilities which include supportive services to remedy social and behavior  
2 problems of the youth served;

3 (3) "Independent living programs" mean residential and/or non-  
4 residential services provided to youth which may include, but not be limited  
5 to, intensive case management, adult supervision, transportation, vocational  
6 and educational assistance, and counseling, including substance abuse  
7 counseling.

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9 SECTION 3. The Division of Youth Services will issue Requests for  
10 Proposals for contracts for the establishment of Therapeutic Group Homes and  
11 Independent Living Programs. The programs shall:

12 (1) Provide therapeutic group care for adjudicated Family-In-Need-of-  
13 Services (FINS) and delinquent youth in small family-like group homes;

14 (2) Provide case management, adult supervision, and treatment services  
15 for participant youth as outlined in an individual case plan;

16 (3) Provide a continuum of treatment services in order to enable youth  
17 to be increasingly less dependent on public institutions and ultimately to  
18 live successfully without adult supervision;

19 (4) Establish a minimum of eight (8) therapeutic group homes with six  
20 (6) beds each within Arkansas;

21 (5) Establish a minimum of ten (10) independent living programs within  
22 Arkansas;

23 (6) Maintain a record of all services provided in individual client  
24 files;

25 (7) Gather follow-up data on all participants for a minimum of three  
26 (3) years after termination of services for evaluation purposes; and

27 (8) Provide an annual report to the Division and the Joint Committee  
28 on Children and Youth summarizing outcome data in areas related to  
29 educational achievement, employment, and criminal justice contact of the  
30 participants and other information as requested by the Division.

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32 SECTION 4. 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.

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1           SECTION 5. 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.

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7           SECTION 6. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are  
8 hereby repealed.

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