

1 State of Arkansas
2 81st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1997
4

As Engrossed: H2/27/97

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1355

5 By: Representatives Madison, Willems, and Wallis
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 "AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT CHILDREN OF DIVORCING PARENTS
10 SHALL HAVE THE BENEFIT OF THEIR DIVORCING PARENTS
11 ATTENDING A PARENTING CLASS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."
12

Subtitle

14 "TO PROVIDE THAT CHILDREN OF DIVORCING
15 PARENTS SHALL HAVE THE BENEFIT OF THEIR
16 DIVORCING PARENTS ATTENDING A PARENTING
17 CLASS."
18

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
20

21 SECTION 1. When the parties to a divorce action have minor children
22 residing with one or both parents, the court, prior to entering a decree of
23 divorce, may require the parties to successfully complete at least two (2)
24 hours of classes concerning parenting by divorced parents or to submit to
25 mediation in regard to addressing parenting issues subsequent to the divorce.
26 Each party shall be responsible for his or her cost of attending classes or
27 mediation.
28

29 SECTION 2. When in the best interests of a child, custody shall be
30 awarded in such a way so as to assure the frequent and continuing contact of
31 the child with both parents. To this effect, in making an order for custody
32 to either parent, the court shall consider, among other facts, which parent is
33 more likely to allow the child or children frequent and continuing contact
34 with the noncustodial parent.
35

36 SECTION 3. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature

1 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
2 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

3

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

9

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11 hereby repealed.

12

13 */s/Rep. Madison et al*

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35