

Stricken language would be deleted from present law. Underlined language would be added to present law.

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

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1733

4
5 By: Representative Pollan

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 "AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE 9-28-601 AND 603 PERTAINING
10 TO THERAPEUTIC GROUP HOMES AND INDEPENDENT LIVING
11 PROGRAMS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Subtitle

14 "PERTAINING TO THERAPEUTIC GROUP HOMES
15 AND INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAMS."

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

19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 9-28-601 is amended to read as follows:

20 "9-28-601. Legislative intent.

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

32 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code 9-28-603 is amended to read as follows:

33 "9-28-603. Establishment.

34 (a) The Division of Youth Services will issue requests for proposals
35 for contracts for the establishment of ~~therapeutic group homes and~~ independent
36 living programs.

1 (b) The programs shall:

2 (1) Provide ~~therapeutic group care for adjudicated family-in-need-of-~~
 3 ~~services and delinquent youths in small family-like group homes;~~

4 ~~(2) Provide~~ case management, adult supervision, and treatment services
 5 for participant youths, as outlined in an individual case plan;

6 ~~(3)~~ (2) Provide a continuum of treatment services in order to enable
 7 youths to be increasingly less dependent on public institutions and ultimately
 8 to live successfully without adult supervision;

9 ~~(4) Establish a minimum of eight (8) therapeutic group homes, with six~~
 10 ~~(6) beds each, within Arkansas;~~

11 ~~(5)~~ (3) Establish a minimum of ten (10) independent living programs
 12 within Arkansas;

13 ~~(6)~~ (4) Maintain a record of all services provided in individual client
 14 files;

15 ~~(7)~~ (5) Gather follow-up data on all participants for a minimum of three
 16 (3) years after termination of services for evaluation purposes; and

17 ~~(8)~~ (6) Provide an annual report to the division and the Joint Senate
 18 Committee on Children and Youth of the General Assembly and the Subcommittee
 19 on Children and Youth of the House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth,
 20 Legislative and Military Affairs summarizing outcome data in areas related to
 21 educational achievement, employment, and criminal justice contact of the
 22 participants and other information as requested by the division."
 23

24 SECTION 3. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
 25 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
 26 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.
 27

28 SECTION 4. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
 29 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
 30 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
 31 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
 32 act are declared to be severable.
 33

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