

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 2157

4
5 By: Representative Young

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 "AN ACT TO CREATE THE BUREAU OF JUVENILE PROBATION
10 RESEARCH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Subtitle

13 "TO CREATE THE BUREAU OF JUVENILE
14 PROBATION RESEARCH."

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

18 SECTION 1. Legislative Intent. The rising number of arrests and
19 subsequent convictions and admissions of juveniles to facilities for crimes
20 committed in the State of Arkansas are overwhelming communities. At the same
21 time, communities have fewer resources to handle these increases. Juvenile
22 crime has escalated nationwide and to the point of fear both of and for youth.
23 The state must begin to strengthen its juvenile justice system, providing
24 tools necessary to address the needs and problems of the juvenile offender
25 population, with securing public safety as the paramount concern. More
26 concentrated efforts and innovative ways of addressing juvenile issues are
27 required to effectively and positively impact the growth of serious, violent
28 and chronic juvenile crimes. The lack of a comprehensive approach to
29 programming and services to address this crisis, aggravated by the absence of
30 outcome measures to determine the effectiveness of various programs which
31 exist to deal with these juvenile offenders, coupled with the need to protect
32 the citizens of the State of Arkansas from crimes committed by juveniles,
33 creates a need to seek and develop solutions to the problem.

35 SECTION 2. The purpose is to research and assess the profiles of
36 juvenile offenders coming through the courts; to aid juvenile courts in the

1 establishment and improvement of the effectiveness of juvenile probation
 2 services including establishing linkages with state and local entities
 3 currently providing services in the juvenile justice system, to assist the
 4 Administrative Office of the Courts in establishing minimum training
 5 requirements for and the certification of juvenile probation and intake
 6 officers; and to develop and provide a strategic plan for presentation to the
 7 Arkansas General Assembly for use by the sentencing courts in determining the
 8 most appropriate sanction to be imposed for juvenile offenders.

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10 SECTION 3. Creation of the Bureau of Juvenile Probation Research.

11 (a) The General Assembly hereby creates a Bureau, known as the Bureau
 12 of Juvenile Probation Research, as the coordinator and manager of research,
 13 assessment, strategic planning of juvenile probation programs. The Bureau
 14 shall be administered by a director. The initial director shall be appointed
 15 by the Governor and shall serve at the pleasure of the Juvenile Justice
 16 Standards Board pursuant to Arkansas Code 9-27-203, and subsequent directors
 17 shall be employed by the Board and shall serve at the pleasure of the Board.

18 (b) The Director shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

19 (1) select employees and consultants of the Bureau as are needed
 20 to administer this act, and as authorized by law, and fix their compensation,
 21 duties, authority and responsibilities;

22 (2) oversee and direct the study and examination of the adequacy
 23 of resources and programs in the Arkansas juvenile probation system;

24 (3) develop a strategic plan, to be presented to the General
 25 Assembly of the State of Arkansas, including recommendations regarding needs
 26 for the creation, expansion, or other changes in the juvenile probation system
 27 which relate to development of a more balanced juvenile system which operates
 28 within the limits of existing resources and emphasizes appropriate juvenile
 29 probation services;

30 (4) assist the Administrative Office of the Courts with the
 31 establishment and implementation of minimum training and certification
 32 requirements for juvenile intake and probation officers;

33 (5) establish minimum standards for juvenile probation caseloads
 34 and supervision programs, services, and equipment, and other aspects of the
 35 operation of a juvenile probation program or office necessary for the
 36 provision of adequate and effective probation programs and services;

- 1 (6) establish a code of ethics for juvenile probation officers;
- 2 (7) develop predisposition report processes and assessment tools
- 3 to aid the juvenile courts in the disposition of juvenile offenders;
- 4 (8) monitor for compliance with standards, in cooperation with
- 5 the Administrative Office of the Courts;
- 6 (9) make a report to the Governor and the General Assembly each
- 7 year regarding the progress of the Arkansas juvenile probation system study
- 8 during the previous year and making recommendations when appropriate;
- 9 (10) collaborate and coordinate with Arkansas juvenile courts,
- 10 agencies, organizations, and other state and local entities regarding Bureau
- 11 efforts.

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13 SECTION 4. The Bureau may evaluate and conduct reviews of juvenile

14 offender case file records of any local or state juvenile probation program,

15 project or operation at any reasonable time to determine the level and costs

16 of services provided for juvenile probation programming/services and compile

17 aggregate information regarding offender profiles, risks and needs. The

18 Bureau may further have access to criminal background information for these

19 purposes as any other criminal justice agency.

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21 SECTION 5. The Bureau may apply for and accept gifts, donations or

22 grants from any public or private source for use in evaluation, assessment and

23 planning of juvenile probation programs and services. All money received by

24 the Bureau under this section shall be deposited in the State Treasury as

25 special revenues to the credit of the "Arkansas Bureau of Juvenile Probation

26 Research Fund" which is hereby created on the books of the State Treasurer,

27 State Auditor, and Chief Fiscal Officer. Such funds shall be used solely for

28 the purposes for which they were awarded and consistent with the authority

29 given under this act.

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31 SECTION 6. The Bureau may cooperate and contract with the federal

32 government, with governmental agencies of Arkansas and other states,

33 consultants, and with local subdivisions of Arkansas to further the intent of

34 this act.

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36 SECTION 7. The Administrative Office of the Courts shall provide data

1 to the Board as determined by the Board in cooperation with the Administrative
2 Office of the Courts.

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4 SECTION 8. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
5 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
6 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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8 SECTION 9. 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.

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

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