

1 State of Arkansas  
2 82nd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 1999

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1073

4  
5 By: Representative Cook  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

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9 "AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS EARLY CHILD CARE AND  
10 EDUCATION COMMISSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF STUDYING CHILD  
11 CARE AND EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF CHILDREN FROM BIRTH TO  
12 THE AGE OF FIVE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

## Subtitle

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15 "AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS EARLY  
16 CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION COMMISSION."  
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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20 SECTION 1. The Arkansas Early Child Care and Education Commission.

21 (a)(1)(A) There is hereby created the Arkansas Early Child Care and  
22 Education Commission to be composed of twelve (12) members as follows:

23 (B) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall appoint four (4)  
24 members as follows:

25 (i) Two (2) members of the Senate;

26 (ii) One (1) teacher of pre-kindergarten children; and

27 (iii) One (1) parent of a child under the age of five (5).

28 (C) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint four (4)  
29 members as follows:

30 (i) Two (2) members of the House of Representatives;

31 (ii) One (1) elementary school administrator; and

32 (iii) One (1) kindergarten teacher.

33 (D) The Governor shall appoint four (4) members, subject to  
34 confirmation by the Senate, one (1) of which must be a private childcare  
35 provider.

36 (2) In the event a vacancy occurs on the commission, the vacancy

1 shall be filled by the same process as the original appointment.

2 (3) The Governor shall designate a temporary chair who shall call  
 3 an organizational meeting of the commission within thirty (30) calendar days  
 4 after appointment of all the members. The commission shall organize by  
 5 selecting from its members a chairman.

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 7 SECTION 2. Purpose.

8 The purpose of the General Assembly in establishing the Arkansas Early  
 9 Child Care and Education Commission is to:

10 (1) Examine the child care needs of children from birth to five (5)  
 11 years of age;

12 (2) Examine the recommendations of national and regional groups and  
 13 systems use by other states to provide child care and education for children  
 14 from birth to the age of five (5);

15 (3) Examine the public and private programs currently providing care  
 16 and education for children from birth to the age of five (5) and the source of  
 17 funding for the programs;

18 (4) Recommend standards for the child care and education of children  
 19 from birth to the age of five (5) and recommend a structure for the  
 20 administration of the currently existing programs and the recommended  
 21 programs; and

22 (5) Propose and recommend legislation for the 2001 Regular Session.

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 24 SECTION 3. Report.

25 The Arkansas Early Child Care and Education Commission shall submit a  
 26 report and its recommendations for improving the care and education of  
 27 children from birth to age five (5) to the Governor and the Legislative  
 28 Council, on or before July 1, 2000.

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 30 SECTION 4. Staff support.

31 (a) Arkansas Department of Education shall provide administrative  
 32 support to the Arkansas Early Child Care and Education Program and shall  
 33 assign a staff person to attend meetings of the Arkansas Early Child Care and  
 34 Education Commission.

35 (b) The Arkansas Early Child Care and Education Commission may employ  
 36 consultants as may be necessary and to the extent funds are available.

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SECTION 5. Expense Reimbursement.

Members of the Arkansas Early Child Care and Education Commission may, to the extent monies are available therefore, receive expense reimbursements pursuant to Arkansas Code § 25-16-902.

SECTION 6. Expiration.

This act expires on December 31, 2001.

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

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

SECTION 9. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.