

State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: H2/11/99 S3/4/99

82nd General Assembly

## A Bill

Regular Session, 1999

HOUSE BILL 1447

By: Representatives Madison, Lynn

By: Senator Kennedy

### For An Act To Be Entitled

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

### Subtitle

"TO PROVIDE THAT CHILDREN OF DIVORCING  
PARENTS MAY HAVE THE BENEFIT OF THEIR  
DIVORCING PARENTS ATTENDING A PARENTING  
CLASS."

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

SECTION 1. (a) When the parties to a divorce action have minor children  
residing with one or both parents, the court, prior to entering a decree of  
divorce, may require the parties to complete at least two (2) hours of classes  
concerning parenting issues faced by divorced parents or to submit to  
mediation in regard to addressing parenting issues.

(b) Each party shall be responsible for his or her cost of attending  
classes or mediation.

(1) The parties may choose a mediator from a list provided by the  
judge, of those mediators who have met the Arkansas Alternative Dispute  
Resolution Commission's requirement guidelines for inclusion on a court  
connected mediation roster, or the parties may select a mediator not on the  
roster, if approved by the judge.

(2) A party may move to dispense with the referral to mediation  
for good cause shown.

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2 SECTION 2. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature  
3 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code  
4 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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6 SECTION 3. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to  
7 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect  
8 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without  
9 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this  
10 act are declared to be severable.

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12 SECTION 4. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are  
13 hereby repealed.

14 /s/ Madison  
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