

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to law as it existed prior to the 82nd General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 82nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1999
4

As Engrossed: H3/29/99

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2077

5 By: Representatives Bond, *Hunt, Broadway*
6 By: Senators *Everett, Roebuck*
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

10 "AN ACT TO BE ENTITLED 'THE QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD
11 EDUCATION ACT' . "

Subtitle

14 "THE QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
15 ACT. "

18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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20 SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as 'The Quality
21 Early Childhood Education Act'.
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23 SECTION 2. It is the purpose and intent of this act to:

24 (1) Promote kindergarten readiness and reduce remediation of
25 elementary students;

26 (2) Train and retain early childhood professionals in the child
27 care field; and

28 (3) Monitor the implementation of teaching strategies by early
29 childhood professionals.
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31 SECTION 3. (a) The Division of Childcare and Early childhood Education
32 shall continue to sponsor Child Development Associate (CDA) training
33 scholarships. The CDA training shall include specific teaching strategies in
34 the areas of oral language, math, and science. The Division of Child Care and
35 Early Childhood Education of the Department of Human Services shall sponsor a
36 minimum of three (3) Child Development Associate (CDA) training scholarships

1 per licensed child care facility or family day home per year. The CDA
2 training will include specific teaching strategies in the areas of oral
3 language, math and science.

4 (b) The Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education shall
5 sponsor scholarships to attend synchronized credited courses to early
6 childhood professionals that will be taught via technical institutes, colleges
7 and universities throughout the state.

8 (c) An early childhood professional who has been in the child care
9 field for a minimum of six (6) months will be eligible for any of the
10 scholarships. Persons wishing to enter the child care field will be eligible
11 for scholarships with a guaranteed contract that upon completion of the
12 training they will maintain employment in the field of child care for two (2)
13 years or reimburse the division for their scholarship.

14 (d) Monetary amounts for CDA scholarships shall be maintained at
15 current amounts paid by the division and may be increased without the approval
16 of the Arkansas Early Childhood Commission. The division shall reimburse the
17 technical institutes, colleges, and universities based upon an average cost
18 per hour that is currently charged at state universities, colleges and
19 technical institutes. Training funds will be dispersed from the Child Care
20 Development Block Grant.

21 (e) Persons who have completed the CDA credentialing prior to the year
22 2000 will be required to take a renewal course that contains specific teaching
23 strategies in the area of oral language, math and science.

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25 SECTION 4. (a) The chairs of the House and Senate Committees on
26 Education shall jointly appoint a committee to be composed of the following:

27 (1) The dean of a department of education at a four year college
28 or his designee

29 (2) A school superintendent;

30 (3) A special education instructor;

31 (4) Two (2) early childhood educators;

32 (5) Two (2) child care providers;

33 (6) A family day home provider;

34 (7) A Head Start employee;

35 (8) A professional who coordinates specialized training for low
36 income children and families;

1 (9) An elementary teacher; and
 2 (10) A professional with expertise in brain based research related
 3 to early childhood development and the classroom.

4 (b) This committee shall design the programmatic content for

5 (1) An infant/toddler specialist;

6 (2) A preschool specialist; and

7 (3) An early childhood director.

8 (c) The committee shall also be responsible for appointing eight (8)
 9 professionals per course designed with expertise in the individual course
 10 content that will meet to synchronize the basic content that will be taught
 11 within each course.

12 (d) Facilities employing teachers who have completed approved training
 13 programs must successfully accomplish "Quality Approval" through the Division
 14 of Child Care and Early Childhood Education. The participants will be
 15 evaluated at least once during unannounced annual inspections of the
 16 facilities to monitor their use of designated teaching strategies.

17 (e) Persons who complete approved training and whose employment
 18 facility has met "Quality Approval" standards will be eligible for a subsidy
 19 per hour worked for up to forty (40) hours per week from the state that will
 20 be dispersed from the division to the child care facilities who will in turn
 21 disperse the money to program participants. The owners of the child care
 22 facilities will be responsible for contributing regular and customary taxes
 23 for the monetary amount received by their employees. *Child Care Licensing*
 24 *Specialist shall review records during regular visits to facilities to insure*
 25 *proper disbursement of funds.* The salary reimbursement fees and the ceiling
 26 that a person is allowed to earn prior to receiving reimbursement is as
 27 follows:

<u>Credential:</u>	<u>Salary Reimbursement:</u>	<u>Maximum Salary</u> <u>Prior to Reimbursement:</u>
<u>Child Development Associate:</u>	<u>\$.75 cents per hour</u>	<u>\$10.00 per hour</u>
<u>Infant/toddler Specialist:</u>	<u>\$ 2.25 per hour</u>	<u>\$12.00 per hour</u>
<u>Preschool Specialist:</u>	<u>\$ 2.25 per hour</u>	<u>\$12.00 per hour</u>
<u>Early Childhood Director:</u>	<u>\$ 3.00 per hour</u>	<u>\$14.00 per hour</u>

34 (f) The Child Development Associate shall begin monetary reimbursement
 35 in January 2000. The specialty programs shall begin monetary reimbursement in
 36 July 2001. Participants of the program will be required to participate in

1 twenty (20) clock hours of continuing education per year.

2 (g) Any child care personnel who changes their place of employment more
3 than once per calendar year will not be eligible for monetary reimbursement
4 from the state for six (6) months.

5 (h) There shall be two (2) staff members added to the Divisions of
6 Childcare and Early Childhood Education, one (1) to monitor new facilities for
7 quality approval and one (1) to establish and maintain a professional
8 development tracking system. No more than five percent (5%) of total program
9 funds shall be used for administrative costs. Funds for monetary
10 reimbursement shall be transferred from the TANFF grant to the Division of
11 Child Care and Early Childhood Education who will disperse the funds
12 accordingly. In the event that future funds are not available through TANFF,
13 monies will be secured through general revenues or other means as designated
14 by the legislature.

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

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

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26 SECTION 7. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
27 hereby repealed.

28 /s/ Bond, et al

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