

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 83rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2001
4

As Engrossed: H4/4/01

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1870

5 By: Representative Minton
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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO ENSURE THAT ONLY SPECIALLY TRAINED
10 PHYSICIANS PRESCRIBE PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS FOR
11 CHILDREN; TO ENSURE THAT SCHOOL BOARDS SEEK
12 ALTERNATIVE METHODS FOR CONTROLLING STUDENT
13 BEHAVIOR; TO ENSURE THAT SCHOOL BOARDS INCREASE
14 EFFORTS TO EDUCATE TEACHERS AND PARENTS ABOUT
15 BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN; AND FOR
16 OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

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19 AN ACT TO ENSURE THAT ONLY SPECIALLY
20 TRAINED PHYSICIANS SHALL PRESCRIBE
21 PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS FOR CHILDREN.
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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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26 SECTION 1. The General Assembly finds:

27 (1) A great many school-age children in Arkansas are taking
28 psychotropic drugs to control behavioral problems;

29 (2) There are documented incidents of highly negative consequences in
30 which psychotropic prescription drugs have been used for what are essentially
31 problems in discipline which may be related to lack of academic success;

32 (3) The National Institutes of Health Consensus Development Panel
33 reported that stimulant drugs such as methylphenidate (Ritalin) result in
34 "little improvement in academic or social skills";

35 (4) A consensus development panel conducted in November, 1998, by the
36 National Institutes of Health to resolve controversies surrounding Attention

1 Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) reported that: "there is no valid
2 independent test for ADHD . . . further research is necessary to firmly
3 establish ADHD as a brain disorder . . . additional efforts to validate the
4 disorder are needed"; and

5 (5) Ensuring safety for Arkansas public education will take nothing
6 short of a coordinated effort by the state and each community to keep violence
7 and disruptive behavior out of schools, and to prevent the abuse of
8 prescription and illicit drugs in schools.

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10 SECTION 2. (a) Only physicians who have training in child psychology
11 and development and training in the use and effects of psychotropic drugs on
12 children and who follow the regulations promulgated by the Arkansas State
13 Medical Board may prescribe psychotropic drugs for school children.

14 (b) Local school district boards and superintendents shall:

15 (1) Determine the extent to which psychotropic drugs are in use
16 in their schools and the current processes by which those drugs are being
17 prescribed for the students, and shall report their findings to the Department
18 of Education; and

19 (2) Provide information to teachers and parents, including
20 tutoring, vision testing, phonics, nutritional guidance, medical examinations,
21 allergy testing, standard disciplinary procedures, and other remedies known to
22 be effective and harmless in improving student behavior.

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24 /s/ Minton
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