

State of Arkansas
83rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2001

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2411

By: Representative Carson

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR AN INDEPENDENT OMBUDSMAN TO
ACT AS LIAISON BETWEEN NURSING HOME OWNERS AND
RESIDENTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR AN INDEPENDENT
OMBUDSMAN TO ACT AS LIAISON BETWEEN
NURSING HOME OWNERS AND RESIDENTS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 20-10-602 is amended to read as follows:
20-10-602. Ombudsman program.

(a) The Division of Aging and Adult Services within the Department of
Human Services shall establish and administer an ombudsman program in
accordance with the federal Older Americans Act, as amended, and all
applicable federal and state laws, including the Arkansas Administrative
Administrative Procedure Act, § 25-15-201 et seq.

(b)(1)(A) The Director of the Department of Human Services shall
engage, in addition to the division's ombudsman, an independent ombudsman.

(B) The independent ombudsman shall be either an employee
of another state agency or a private citizen who in the director's opinion is
qualified to act as an ombudsman pursuant to this section.

(2) The independent ombudsman shall act as liaison between
nursing home owners and operators and the residents and their families.

(3) The independent ombudsman shall coordinate with the

1 division's ombudsman to ensure:

2 (A) That the division's ombudsman and the independent
3 ombudsman visit each nursing home the same number of times each month; and

4 (B) That the division's ombudsman and the independent
5 ombudsman do regularly not visit any individual nursing home at the same
6 time.