

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: H3/22/01

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2524

5 By: Representative Carson
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO INCLUDE THE DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH
10 UNDER THE "ARKANSAS CHILD WELFARE PUBLIC
11 ACCOUNTABILITY ACT"; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12

Subtitle

14 AN ACT TO INCLUDE THE DIVISION OF MENTAL
15 HEALTH UNDER THE "ARKANSAS CHILD WELFARE
16 PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY ACT".
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18

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 9-32-202 is amended to read as follows:

22 9-32-202. Legislative findings.

23 To enhance the public's access to child welfare program performance
24 indicators, to raise the public's awareness of the child welfare program's
25 client outcomes, to enable the General Assembly to monitor and assess the
26 performance of the Department of Human Services' Division of Children and
27 Family Services, Division of Mental Health and Division of Youth Services,
28 and to specifically monitor the Division of Children and Family Services'
29 compliance with court-ordered settlement agreements and compliance with state
30 and federal regulations, the General Assembly finds that special and
31 extraordinary provisions for legislative oversight of the child welfare
32 system should be established.
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34 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code 9-32-203 is amended to read as follows:

35 (a)(1) The Division of Youth Services, the Division of Mental Health,
36 and the Division of Children and Family Services are hereby directed to issue

1 to the Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth of the General Assembly
2 a quarterly report on the performance of the child welfare system.

3 (2) These quarterly reports will be known as the Division of
4 Youth Services, the Division of Mental Health, and the Division of Children
5 and Family Services Quarterly Performance Reports and shall be transmitted to
6 the Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth no later than thirty (30)
7 calendar days after the end of each calendar quarter.

8 (b) The Division of Youth Services, the Division of Mental Health, and
9 the Division of Children and Family Services Quarterly Performance Reports
10 shall contain, but not be limited to:

11 (1) Client outcome information;

12 (2) Case status information;

13 (3) Compliance information;

14 (4) Management indicators; and

15 (5) Other data agreed to by the Senate Interim Committee on
16 Children and Youth, the Division of Mental Health, and the Division of
17 Children and Family Services and the Division of Youth Services.

18 (c) The Division of Mental Health shall report information by mental
19 health catchment areas with actual totals.

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21 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code 9-32-204 is amended to read as follows:

22 9-32-204. Annual performance reports - Arkansas Child Welfare Report
23 Card.

24 (a)(1) The Division of Youth Services, the Division of Mental Health,
25 and the Division of Children and Family Services shall issue an annual report
26 on the performance of the child welfare system on a county-by-county basis.

27 The Division of Mental Health will report information by mental health
28 catchment areas with state totals.

29 (2) This annual report will be known as the Arkansas Child
30 Welfare Report Card.

31 (b) The Arkansas Child Welfare Report Card shall contain, but not be
32 limited to, for each county and the state as a whole:

33 (1) Client outcome information;

34 (2) Case status information;

35 (3) Compliance information;

36 (4) Management indicators; and

1 (5) Other data specified by the Senate Interim Committee on
2 Children and Youth.

3 (c) The Arkansas Child Welfare Report Card shall be published and
4 transmitted to the Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth no later
5 than December 1 of each year, and it must be published in a format that can
6 be easily understood by the general public.

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8 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code 9-32-205 is amended to read as follows:

9 9-32-205. Annual performance audits.

10 (a) The Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth shall conduct
11 annual performance audits of the Division of Youth Services, the Division of
12 Mental Health, and the Division of Children and Family Services.

13 (b) To establish performance auditing standards, the Senate Interim
14 Committee on Children and Youth shall use for guidance the Standards for
15 Audit of Governmental Organizations, Programs, Activities and Functions
16 (revised), published by the United States General Accounting Office.

17 (c) The performance audits shall contain, but not be limited to, a
18 complete assessment of the Division of Youth Services', the Division of
19 Mental Health, and the Division of Children and Family Services' compliance
20 with state and federal regulations and with the terms and conditions of the
21 court-ordered settlement agreement.

22 (d) To conduct the performance audit, the Senate Interim Committee on
23 Children and Youth may utilize surveys, client interviews, and other research
24 methodology that it deems necessary.

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26 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code 9-32-206 is amended to read as follows:

27 9-32-206. Provision of information and assistance.

28 (a) The Division of Youth Services, the Division of Mental Health, and
29 the Division of Children and Family Services shall make available to the
30 Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth a list of all reports the unit
31 submits to the Director of the Department of Human Services.

32 (b) Under the direction of the Director of the Department of Human
33 Services, the Division of Youth Services, the Division of Mental Health, and
34 the Division of Children and Family Services shall work cooperatively with
35 and provide any necessary assistance to the Senate Interim Committee on
36 Children and Youth.

1 (c) ~~The~~ Notwithstanding any agency rules or regulations to the
 2 contrary, the Division of Youth Services, the Division of Mental Health, and
 3 the Division of Children and Family Services shall furnish information to
 4 members of the General Assembly, legislative staff, or legislative committees
 5 immediately upon request.

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 7 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code Title 12, Chapter 8, Subchapter 5 is amended
 8 to add an additional section to read as follows:

9 12-8-508. Provision of information and assistance.
 10 Notwithstanding rules or regulations to the contrary, the Family
 11 Protection Unit shall, upon request of a member of the General Assembly,
 12 legislative staff, or upon request of a legislative committee, immediately
 13 provide information requested with respect to child welfare as contemplated
 14 under the Arkansas Child Welfare Public Accountability Act beginning at § 9-
 15 32-201.

16 /s/ Carson

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