

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: H4/3/01
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2540

5 By: Representative T. Steele
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8 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

9 *AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE GREAT STRIDES PROGRAM*
10 *WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH; AND FOR OTHER*
11 *PURPOSES.*

12
13 **Subtitle**

14 *AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE GREAT STRIDES*
15 *PROGRAM.*
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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20 SECTION 1. The General Assembly finds:

21 (1) That Arkansas consistently ranks among the most unhealthy states
22 in the nation;

23 (2) That after just one (1) year of regular walking exercise,
24 previously sedentary smokers refrained from smoking at twice the rate of
25 those who received only health education;

26 (3) That Arkansans who exercise regularly choose walking as their
27 overwhelmingly preferred form of activity;

28 (4) That women who walk briskly or exercise vigorously may reduce
29 their chances for heart disease by as much as forty percent (40%);

30 (5) That over thirty-five percent (35%) of Arkansans do not exercise,
31 placing Arkansas as the sixth (6th) most sedentary state in the nation;

32 (6) That, while people are inactive in all parts of the state, a
33 greater percentage of the population is inactive in rural areas; and

34 (7) That a reduction in illnesses related to physical inactivity would
35 save Arkansas millions of dollars each year in reduced health care costs.
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1 SECTION 2. (a) The Department of Health shall use funds from the
2 Tobacco Settlement Proceeds Act to establish the Great Strides Grant Program.

3 (b)(1) The department shall promulgate regulations to create a grant
4 program which will allow local communities to participate in the Great
5 Strides Grant Program.

6 (2) The Department of Health shall give priority in meeting the goals
7 of this act to grant proposals from rural communities.

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/s/ T. Steele