

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: S3/26/01
A Bill

SENATE BILL 578

5 By: Senators Brown, K. Smith
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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO PERMIT THE CHILD ABUSE/RAPE/DOMESTIC
10 VIOLENCE COMMISSION TO ADMINISTER AND MONITOR
11 GRANTS TO CHILD ADVOCACY CENTERS; AND FOR OTHER
12 PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

14 AN ACT TO PERMIT THE CHILD
15 ABUSE/RAPE/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMISSION
16 TO ADMINISTER AND MONITOR GRANTS TO
17 CHILD ADVOCACY CENTERS.
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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23 Section 1. Findings and Purpose.

24 (a) The General Assembly finds and determines that:

25 (1) Abused children often have to describe their sexual or
26 physical abuse several times to different professionals at different
27 locations;

28 (2) Many child abuse investigations are conducted with little
29 collaboration between the agencies involved in the cases;

30 (3) Each agency's child abuse professionals are housed in
31 different facilities and as a result, interface during the investigation and
32 management of cases is limited;

33 (4) Sexual and physical abuse medical examinations are commonly
34 performed in hospital emergency rooms and other sites that are frightening to
35 children, lack the proper equipment, and often are staffed by physicians
36 uncomfortable with these exams; and

(5) Child Advocacy Centers provide:

(A) A more child-friendly atmosphere;

(B) Reduced trauma to the children and families;

(C) Improved investigations and management;

(D) More effective utilization of multi-agency

information;

(E) Greater protection of children;

(F) Increased prosecution of perpetrators; and

(G) Less unnecessary family intervention.

(b) The purpose of this act is to encourage the use of existing Child Advocacy Centers and the development of new centers providing the benefits under one (1) roof.

SECTION 2. Establishment and Authority.

(a) There is established the Community Grants for Child Advocacy Centers Program.

(b) The Child Abuse/Rape/Domestic Violence Commission shall advise the Child Abuse/Rape/Domestic Violence Section within the office of the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences on the administration and monitoring of this grant program for the operation of existing Child Advocacy Centers and the development of new centers in the State of Arkansas.

SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly, that the effectiveness of this act on July 1, 2001 is essential to the continued operations of the existing Child Advocacy Centers, and that in the event of an extension of the Regular Session, the delay in the effective date of this act beyond July 1, 2001 could work irreparable harm upon the proper administration and provision of essential government support of Child Advocacy Centers. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 2001.

/s/ Brown