

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 85th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2005
4

As Engrossed: H3/22/05

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2452

5 By: Representative Roebuck
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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO ADDRESS THE OUT-OF-STATE PLACEMENT OF
10 CHILDREN FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AND
11 TREATMENT; TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO
12 ARE PLACED OUT OF STATE FOR MENTAL HEALTH
13 SERVICES AND TREATMENT; TO BETTER UTILIZE THE
14 MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS
15 FOR THE TREATMENT OF CHILDREN; AND FOR OTHER
16 PURPOSES.

Subtitle

18 TO ADDRESS THE OUT-OF-STATE PLACEMENT OF
19 CHILDREN FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AND
20 TREATMENT.
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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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26 SECTION 1. It is the intent of the General Assembly of the State of
27 Arkansas that:

28 (1) Juveniles receive mental health services in their
29 communities whenever possible and in the least restrictive placement
30 consistent with the juvenile's treatment needs;

31 (2) Circuit courts are provided with qualified mental health
32 screenings to assist courts in ordering appropriate mental health services
33 for juveniles; and

34 (3) Juvenile officers, mental health providers, residential
35 providers, the Department of Human Services, Child and Adolescent Service
36 System Program providers, attorneys, and advocates shall work together to



1 ensure the continuity of mental health services for juveniles in their
2 communities.

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4 SECTION 2. (a) When a mental health screening or assessment is
5 provided to the juvenile division of a circuit court, the screening or
6 assessment shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

7 (1) An assessment of the mental health services needed for the
8 juvenile and the juvenile's family; and

9 (2) The services that could be provided to enable the juvenile
10 to remain safely in his or her home and the availability of such services.

11 (b) If the screening or assessment recommends that the juvenile cannot
12 remain safely in his or her home, then the screening or assessment shall
13 state the recommended type of residential treatment or in-patient treatment
14 that is needed for the juvenile which:

15 (1) Meets the treatment needs of the juvenile;

16 (2) Allows the juvenile to remain as close to his or her home
17 and community as possible so that his or her family can participate in the
18 treatment plan;

19 (3) Provides for the least restrictive placement ensuring the
20 health and safety of the juvenile;

21 (4) Provides an anticipated length of time needed for
22 residential or in-patient treatment; and

23 (5) Provides a plan for the reintegration of the juvenile into
24 his or her community, including coordination with local providers when the
25 juvenile is released from residential or in-patient treatment.

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27 /s/ Roebuck
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