

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 86th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2007
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1241

5 By: Representatives Webb, Adcock, Allen, T. Baker, Blount, Bond, T. Bradford, Breedlove, E. Brown, J.
6 Brown, Cash, Chesterfield, Cornwell, L. Cowling, D. Creekmore, Davenport, Dickinson, S. Dobbins,
7 Dunn, Edwards, Flowers, Garner, George, R. Green, Greenberg, Hall, Hardwick, Harrelson, Harris,
8 Hawkins, House, Hoyt, D. Hutchinson, Hyde, D. Johnson, J. Johnson, Key, King, W. Lewellen, Lovell,
9 Lowery, Maloch, Maxwell, Norton, Patterson, Pennartz, Pickett, Pierce, Powers, S. Prater, Pyle, Ragland,
10 Rainey, Reynolds, J. Roebuck, Rosenbaum, Sample, Saunders, Shelby, Stewart, Sullivan, Sumpter,
11 Thyer, Wagner, Walters, Wills, Wood, Woods
12 By: Senator Baker
13
14

For An Act To Be Entitled

15 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS INFORMATION
16 READING SERVICES FOR THE BLIND WITHIN THE
17 DIVISION OF STATE SERVICES FOR THE BLIND OF THE
18 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES; AND FOR
19 OTHER PURPOSES.
20

Subtitle

21 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS
22 INFORMATION READING SERVICES FOR THE
23 BLIND WITHIN THE DIVISION OF STATE
24 SERVICES FOR THE BLIND OF THE DEPARTMENT
25 OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.
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30 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

31 SECTION 1. Public policy – Findings.

32 (a) It is the public policy of the State of Arkansas to:

33 (1) Provide visually handicapped persons with services that are
34 reasonably necessary to allow visually handicapped persons the opportunity to
35 lead full, useful, and productive lives; and
36



1 (2) Expend funds intended to improve the lives of visually
 2 handicapped persons in the most efficient and effective manner possible.

3 (b) The General Assembly finds that the purposes set forth in
 4 subsection (a) of this section may be advanced by the establishment in law of
 5 an Information Reading Services for the Blind within the Division of State
 6 Services for the Blind of the Department of Health and Human Services to
 7 provide audible access to statewide public notices, newspaper articles of
 8 interest and other information, particularly at the local level, to persons
 9 who are visually handicapped.

10
 11 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 25, Chapter 10, Subchapter 2 is amended
 12 to add an additional section to read as follows:

13 25-10-209. Information Reading Services for the Blind created.

14 (a) The Information Reading Services for the Blind is created within
 15 the Division of State Services for the Blind of the Department of Health and
 16 Human Services.

17 (b) The Information Reading Services for the Blind shall be:

18 (1) An integral part of the rehabilitation state plan of the
 19 Division of State Services for the Blind;

20 (2) A network to:

21 (A) Provide audible access to statewide public notices,
 22 newspaper articles of interest and other information, particularly at the
 23 local level, to persons who are visually handicapped; and

24 (B) Translate existing local, state, and national
 25 information into an audible format to make it available for access by
 26 visually handicapped persons; and

27 (3) Available to all state agencies as a means of making public
 28 notices audibly accessible to visually handicapped persons who cannot read
 29 print.

30 (c) This section does not limit the eligibility of the Information
 31 Reading Services for the Blind to receive line-item state or federal grant
 32 funding targeted solely for support of its programming.

33 (d) The Director of the Division of State Services for the Blind of
 34 the Department of Health and Human Services shall consult at least annually
 35 with active consumers of the Information Reading Services for the Blind,
 36 including participating state agencies, in the design, improvement, and

1 delivery of the services.
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