

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

As Engrossed: H3/21/07

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2211

5 By: Representatives Key, D. Creekmore  
6  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT CONCERNING EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR  
9 CHILD CARE FACILITIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
10

### Subtitle

11 THE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR CHILD  
12 CARE FACILITIES ACT.  
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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19 SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Emergency  
20 Preparedness for Child Care Facilities Act".  
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22 SECTION 2. Legislative intent.

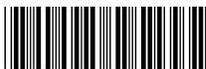
23 The General Assembly finds that:

24 (1) Early care and education facilities at which children from  
25 birth to four (4) years of age and school-age children may spend part or all  
26 of their days may not be known to emergency preparedness agencies and thus  
27 may be overlooked in first response activities and in recovery planning  
28 following major disasters;

29 (2) The health and social-emotional, cognitive, and physical  
30 development of young children may be compromised by severe traumatic  
31 experiences;

32 (3) Teachers and caregivers of young children will improve the  
33 children's health and well being by being prepared for orderly evacuations  
34 and rapid reunification of young children with their parents during  
35 emergencies;

36 (4) Child care facilities are crucial to the economic



1 redevelopment of communities following major disasters; and

2 (5) State child care and emergency management agencies should  
3 take steps to share data and coordinate planning, response, and recovery of  
4 child care facilities during and after major disasters.

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6 SECTION 3. Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education  
7 policies.

8 The Director of the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood  
9 Education of the Department of Health and Human Services shall coordinate  
10 efforts with other state agencies and appropriate organizations to:

11 (1)(A) Share with the Arkansas Department of Emergency  
12 Management on a quarterly basis an integrated list of all licensed child care  
13 facilities and all known license-exempt child care facilities, including  
14 without limitation physical addresses, maximum capacity, emergency contact  
15 information, hours of operation, and status as tuition subsidy, meal subsidy,  
16 state-funded pre-kindergarten, and quality-rated facilities.

17 (B) The integrated list is to be sorted by county;

18 (2) Identify designated emergency shelters, including without  
19 limitation local shelters and mass evacuation shelters, in proximity to all  
20 licensed child care facilities and all known license-exempt facilities,  
21 identify three (3) designated shelters in closest proximity to each child  
22 care facility, and notify each child care facility annually of the locations  
23 of those shelters;

24 (3) Coordinate efforts to notify the state emergency management  
25 agency of the estimated number of children in child care facilities who could  
26 be evacuated to each shelter;

27 (4) Require all licensed child care facilities to notify parents  
28 annually of the shelters designated by the division as being in closest  
29 proximity to those facilities;

30 (5) Include early childhood emergency preparedness courses and  
31 workshops that address specific risk factors and evacuation procedures in  
32 particular geographic areas among approved courses and workshops for meeting  
33 requirements for in-service training for licensed child care providers in  
34 those geographic areas; and

35 (6) Incorporate specific indicators of emergency preparedness,  
36 linked to specific disaster risk factors in providers' geographic areas, into

1 each level of any quality ratings above minimum licensing standards.

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3 SECTION 4. Arkansas Department of Emergency Management policies.

4 The Director of the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management shall  
5 coordinate efforts with other state agencies and appropriate organizations  
6 to:

7 (1) Disseminate county-level lists of all licensed child care  
8 facilities and all known license-exempt facilities, including without  
9 limitation physical address, maximum capacity, hours of operation, and  
10 emergency contact information, to county governments for use in search and  
11 rescue during emergencies and disasters;

12 (2) Share a periodically updated statewide list of designated  
13 emergency shelters, both local shelters and mass evacuation shelters, with  
14 the state child care licensing agency, state child care subsidy program, and  
15 state child and adult nutrition program when such a list is available; and

16 (3) Include child care facilities where critical facilities such  
17 as schools, hospitals, and nursing homes are mentioned in the state response  
18 plan, emergency preparedness exercises, or other guiding documents and  
19 activities.

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21 /s/ Key, et al  
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