

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 H3/23/07

A Bill

SENATE BILL 868

5 By: Senator Steele
6 *By: Representative Blount*
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE HUMAN SERVICES WORKERS IN
11 THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

14 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE HUMAN SERVICES
15 WORKERS IN THE SCHOOLS 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. Arkansas Code § 20-76-112 is amended to read as follows:

21 20-76-112. Human Services Workers in Public Schools Program.

22 ~~The Division of Children and Family Services of the Department of Health and~~
23 ~~Human Services shall encourage the Transitional Employment Assistance Program~~
24 ~~and the Transitional Employment Assistance Board to work in coordination with~~
25 ~~the division to increase the number of human service workers in public~~
26 ~~schools.~~

27 (a) The Human Services Worker in the school program is established as
28 a collaborative effort between the Division of Children and Family Services
29 of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Transitional Employment
30 Assistance Board, the Department of Education and local school districts.
31 The Human Services Worker in Schools Program is designed to help children and
32 families by:

33 (1) Promoting safety of children and strengthening of families;

34 (2) Supporting the community's capacity to produce children who
35 are healthy, children who are in supportive, nurturing, and healthy
36 families, and children who succeed in school; and



1 (3) Promoting the division's family preservation philosophy and
2 family-centered practice.

3 (b) Upon approval of the Arkansas Transitional Employment Board, the
4 division shall enter into contracts with local school districts to provide
5 funding for the maximum number of human service workers.

6 (c) Human services workers shall have a bachelor's degree or a
7 master's degree in social work or related field and shall provide the
8 following services according to skills and training:

9 (1) Crisis intervention;

10 (2) School conferences and in-service training;

11 (3) Home visits;

12 (4) Transportation for family and student group counseling;

13 (5) Parent training and activities;

14 (6) Supportive service referrals;

15 (7) Individualized coping and conflict management skills; and

16 (8) Assessment of family and student needs.

17 (d)(1) Funding for human services workers shall be targeted to schools
18 with ninety percent (90%) or more children eligible for the Free and Reduced
19 Lunch program under the National School Lunch Act.

20 (2) The Department of Education and the division shall develop
21 criteria to prioritize eligibility for the Human Services Worker in the
22 Schools Program.

23 (e) The human services workers in the School Program shall be
24 evaluated annually by the coordinated Health Services Section of the
25 Department of Education in coordination with the division, the Transitional
26 Employment Assistance Board, and the local school districts that hold
27 contracts.

28 (f) A parent or a student has the option to refuse any services
29 recommended under this program.

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31 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
32 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that there is a need for a human
33 services workers program in schools and that this act is immediately
34 necessary because most schools lack the expertise to provide appropriate
35 services to students and because there is a need to inform schools about the
36 availability of the program prior to the end of the current school year to

1 have the opportunity to recruit a sufficient number of human services
2 workers for the next school year. Therefore, an emergency is declared to
3 exist and this act being necessary for the preservation of the public peace,
4 health, and safety shall become effective on April 15, 2007.

5 /s/ Steele
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