

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 87th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2009
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5 By: Senator H. Wilkins
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As Engrossed: S2/17/09
A Bill

SENATE BILL 342

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO PROTECT CHILDREN IN CHILD CARE
10 FACILITIES DURING EMERGENCIES; TO REQUIRE CHILD
11 CARE FACILITIES TO FILE WRITTEN PLANS FOR
12 EMERGENCY PROCEDURES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

15 AN ACT TO PROTECT CHILDREN IN CHILD CARE
16 FACILITIES DURING EMERGENCIES AND TO
17 REQUIRE CHILD CARE FACILITIES TO FILE
18 WRITTEN PLANS FOR EMERGENCY PROCEDURES.

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

23 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 12-86-203 is amended to read as follows:*
24 *12-86-203. Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education*
25 *policies.*

26 *The Director of the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood*
27 *Education of the Department of Human Services shall coordinate efforts with*
28 *other state agencies and appropriate organizations to:*

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

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

36 *(2) Identify designated emergency shelters, including without*



1 *limitation local shelters and mass evacuation shelters, in proximity to all*
2 *licensed child care facilities and all known license-exempt facilities,*
3 *identify three (3) designated shelters in closest proximity to each child*
4 *care facility, and notify each child care facility annually of the locations*
5 *of those shelters;*

6 *(3) Coordinate efforts to notify the state emergency management*
7 *agency of the estimated number of children in child care facilities who could*
8 *be evacuated to each shelter;*

9 *(4) Require all licensed child care facilities to notify parents*
10 *annually of the shelters designated by the Division of Child Care and Early*
11 *Childhood Education of the Department of Human Services as being in closest*
12 *proximity to those facilities;*

13 *(5) Include early childhood emergency preparedness courses and*
14 *workshops that address specific risk factors and evacuation procedures in*
15 *particular geographic areas among approved courses and workshops for meeting*
16 *requirements for in-service training for licensed child care providers in*
17 *those geographic areas; and*

18 *(6) Incorporate specific indicators of emergency preparedness,*
19 *linked to specific disaster risk factors in providers' geographic areas, into*
20 *each level of any quality ratings above minimum licensing standards; and*

21 *(7)(A) Require a child care facility to have a written plan for*
22 *evacuation in the event of fire, natural disaster, or other threatening*
23 *situation that may pose a health or safety hazard to the children in the*
24 *child care facility;*

25 *(B) Require the plan to include without limitation:*

26 *(i) A designated relocation site and evacuation*
27 *route;*

28 *(ii) Procedures for notifying parents of the*
29 *relocation and ensuring family reunification;*

30 *(iii) Procedures to address the needs of individual*
31 *children, including children with special needs;*

32 *(iv) Instructions relating to the training of staff*
33 *or the reassignment of staff duties, as appropriate;*

34 *(v) Coordination with local emergency management*
35 *officials; and*

36 *(vi) A program to ensure that appropriate staff are*

1 familiar with the plan's components.

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/s/ H. Wilkins

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