

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

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 343

4  
5 By: Senator Crumbly  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8  
9 AN ACT TO CONFRONT DISPARITIES IN HEALTH AND  
10 LENGTH OF LIFE AMONG CITIZENS OF ARKANSAS; AND  
11 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
12

## Subtitle

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14 AN ACT TO CONFRONT DISPARITIES IN HEALTH  
15 AND LENGTH OF LIFE AMONG CITIZENS OF  
16 ARKANSAS.  
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 7, Subchapter 1 is amended  
22 to add an additional section to read as follows:

23 20-7-136. Disparities in health and length of life.

24 (a) The Department of Health shall develop a comprehensive survey of  
25 disparities in health and length of life among citizens of Arkansas,  
26 including without limitation disparities arising from geographic location,  
27 ethnicity, and economic conditions.

28 (b) The department shall create a program for decreasing the  
29 disparities identified under subsection (a) of this section.

30 (c) In creating the program under subsection (b) of this section, the  
31 department shall cooperate with and seek assistance from:

32 (1) State agencies, including without limitation:

33 (A) The Minority Health Commission;

34 (B) The Child Health Advisory Committee; and

35 (C) The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences;

36 (2) Private associations concerned with disparities in health



1 and length of life; and

2 (3) Citizens concerned with disparities in health and length of  
3 life.

4 (d)(1) The department shall assist state agencies and private  
5 associations in creating and implementing a program to reduce disparities in  
6 health and length of life.

7 (2) The program created under subdivision (d)(1) of this section  
8 shall include without limitation:

9 (A) Educational programming regarding disparities in  
10 health and length of life in this state to be delivered in local communities  
11 statewide;

12 (B) Studies in local areas suffering from severe  
13 disparities in health and length of life of the causes for the disparities;  
14 and

15 (C) Development of proposals for local community remedies  
16 for the disparities.

17 (e) On or before October 1 each year, the department shall report to  
18 the Governor and the chair of the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare,  
19 and Labor and the chair of the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare,  
20 and Labor without limitation:

21 (1) Summarizing the previous year's work under this section;

22 (2) Describing reductions in disparities in health and length of  
23 life in this state; and

24 (3) Outlining plans for continuing and expanding in the coming  
25 year the program to reduce disparities in health and length of life in this  
26 state.

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