

1 State of Arkansas
2 88th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2011
4

As Engrossed: S3/9/11

A Bill

SENATE BILL 527

5 By: Senator J. Dismang
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO REQUIRE A SCHOOL DISTRICT TO PROVIDE IN-
9 SERVICE TRAINING TO LICENSED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ON THE
10 SIGNS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND THE RESOURCES
11 AVAILABLE TO CHILD VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE; TO
12 REQUIRE THE CHILD HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO
13 PREPARE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR THE
14 IN-SERVICE TRAINING AND FOR PARENT EDUCATIONAL
15 MATERIALS CONCERNING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE; AND FOR
16 OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

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20 TO REQUIRE A SCHOOL DISTRICT TO PROVIDE
21 IN-SERVICE TRAINING TO LICENSED SCHOOL
22 PERSONNEL ON THE SIGNS OF CHILD SEXUAL
23 ABUSE AND THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO
24 CHILD VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE.

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27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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29 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 18, Subchapter 7 is amended
30 to add an additional section to read as follows:

31 6-18-708. In-service training on child sexual abuse.

32 (a) As used in this section:

33 (1) "Licensed school personnel" means a person who works with
34 students in a public school or school district for whom the license is a
35 condition of employment under the rules of the State Board of Education,
36 including without limitation a:



1 (A) School or school district administrator;

2 (B) Classroom teacher;

3 (C) Coach for a school athletics program;

4 (D) School guidance counselor;

5 (E) School social worker;

6 (F) School psychologist; and

7 (G) School nurse; and

8 (2) "Sexual abuse" means any sexual offense proscribed under §§
9 5-14-101 – 5-14-127, § 5-27-401 et seq., the Arkansas Protection of Children
10 Against Exploitation Act of 1979, § 5-27-301 et seq., and the Child
11 Maltreatment Act, § 12-18-101 et seq.

12 (b)(1) At least once every two (2) years, a school district shall
13 provide in-service training for licensed school personnel conducted by a
14 person with expertise in issues relating to child victims of sexual abuse.

15 (2) The in-service training shall include at a minimum:

16 (A) Identifying the warning signs that a child is a victim
17 of sexual abuse;

18 (B) Listening to and communicating with a child who is or
19 exhibits signs of being a victim of sexual abuse;

20 (C) Connecting a child victim of sexual abuse to
21 appropriate in-school services and other agencies, programs, and services
22 needed to provide the child with the emotional and educational support the
23 child needs to continue to be successful in school;

24 (D) Implementing the school district's policies,
25 procedures, and protocols with regard to child victims of sexual
26 abuse, including confidentiality; and

27 (E) The requirements of the Child Maltreatment Act, § 12-
28 18-101 et seq., including without limitation:

29 (i) Duties and responsibilities of child
30 maltreatment mandated reporters; and

31 (ii) Consequences of failure of a child maltreatment
32 mandated reporter to report suspected child maltreatment, including without
33 limitation child sexual abuse.

34 (c) The in-service training shall:

35 (1) Follow the recommendations and guidelines of the Child
36 Health Advisory Committee; and

1 (2) Meet Department of Education requirements for professional
2 development credit.

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4 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 20-7-134, concerning the powers and duties
5 of the Child Health Advisory Committee, is amended to add an additional
6 subsection to read as follows:

7 (d) The committee shall develop policy recommendations and guidelines
8 for:

9 (1) The in-service training of licensed school personnel
10 concerning child victims of sexual abuse under § 6-18-708; and

11 (2) Educational information that school districts may provide to
12 parents or guardians of children enrolled in public schools in Arkansas on:

13 (A) The warning signs that a child is a victim of sexual
14 abuse; and

15 (B) How to seek assistance, referrals, counseling, or
16 other resources for a child victim of sexual abuse or the parent or legal
17 guardian of the child victim.

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19 /s/J. Dismang
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