

1 State of Arkansas  
2 89th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2013  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1352

5 By: Representatives Alexander, D. Altes, Ballinger, Barnett, Clemmer, Cozart, Deffenbaugh, Dotson, C.  
6 Douglas, Fite, Gossage, Hammer, Harris, Hobbs, Hutchison, Lea, Lowery, Miller, Payton, Scott, B.  
7 Wilkins  
8 By: Senators Bledsoe, G. Stubblefield, J. Woods  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

11 AN ACT TO AMEND THE PROVISIONS FOR PROGRAM  
12 ELIGIBILITY IN THE ARKANSAS BETTER CHANCE PROGRAM; TO  
13 DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

16 TO AMEND THE PROVISIONS FOR PROGRAM  
17 ELIGIBILITY IN THE ARKANSAS BETTER CHANCE  
18 PROGRAM AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.  
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22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-45-106(a)(1)(B), concerning the  
25 application process for the Arkansas Better Chance Program, is amended to  
26 read as follows:

27 (B) ~~All applications submitted by sectarian or sectarian-~~  
28 ~~affiliated programs must first be reviewed to assure that any approval of~~  
29 ~~funding will not result in a violation of the First Amendment to the United~~  
30 ~~States Constitution~~ Arkansas Better Chance Program funding may be approved  
31 for and expended by a faith-based early childhood program if the program is  
32 selected by the parent of a child enrolled in the faith-based early childhood  
33 program and not by a state agency or officer.  
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35 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
36 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the Arkansas Better Chance



1 Program provides important early childhood learning experiences for thousands  
 2 of Arkansas preschool children; that this act removes barriers for many of  
 3 those children to attend a quality early childhood center under this program;  
 4 and that this act is immediately necessary for the continuance of those  
 5 quality programs in the 2013-2014 school year. Therefore, an emergency is  
 6 declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the  
 7 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective  
 8 on:

9 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

10 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,  
 11 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the  
 12 bill; or

13 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is  
 14 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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