1 State of Arkansas

A Bill

2 91st General Assembly

3 Regular Session, 2017   HOUSE BILL 1518

4

5 By: Representatives Sturch, D. Ferguson

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7   **For An Act To Be Entitled**

8   AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION

9   COORDINATING BOARD TO DEVELOP AN ACTION PLAN TO

10   ADDRESS THE PREVENTION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT; AND FOR

11   OTHER PURPOSES.

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14   **Subtitle**

15   TO REQUIRE THE ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION

16   COORDINATING BOARD TO DEVELOP AN ACTION

17   PLAN TO ADDRESS THE PREVENTION OF SEXUAL

18   ASSAULT.

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

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23   SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.

24   The General Assembly finds that:

25   (1) One (1) out of every six (6) American women and one (1) out

26 of every thirty-three (33) American men have been the victim of an attempted

27 or completed rape;

28   (2) Arkansas is ranked forty-seventh among the states in the

29 number of reported forcible rapes per one hundred thousand (100,000) people

30 at a rate of forty-two and three-tenths percent (42.3%);

31   (3) Individuals between the ages of twelve (12) and thirty-four

32 (34) are at the highest risk for sexual assault;

33   (4) Women and girls between the ages of sixteen (16) and

34 nineteen (19) are four (4) times more likely than the general population to

35 be victims of sexual assault;

36   (5) Victims of sexual assault are:

1	(A) Three (3) times more likely to suffer from depression;
2	(B) Six (6) times more likely to suffer from post-
3	traumatic stress disorder;
4	(C) Thirteen (13) times more likely to abuse alcohol;
5	(D) Twenty-six (26) times more likely to abuse drugs; and
6	(E) Four (4) times more likely to contemplate suicide; and
7	(6) Community colleges and universities in Arkansas provide a
8	critical venue to address the prevention of sexual assault.
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10	SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 60, Subchapter 1, is amended
11	to add an additional section to read as follows:
12	6-60-111. Sexual assault action plan.
13	(a) On and after November 3, 2017, the Arkansas Higher Education
14	Coordinating Board, in collaboration with all public university and community
15	college presidents and chancellors or their designees, shall develop an
16	action plan to address the prevention of sexual assault.
17	(b) The action plan shall:
18	(1) Incorporate sexual assault prevention information for
19	students through advising and student orientation;
20	(2) Integrate information about the prevention of sexual assault
21	into academic courses if and when appropriate;
22	(3) Identify opportunities to raise awareness of and provide
23	resources for the prevention of sexual assault across the entire student
24	population;
25	(4) Identify opportunities for current students to reach out to
26	younger teens to serve as mentors or role models, or both, of successful
27	behaviors and healthy choices, including opportunities for outreach during
28	summer vacation or during traditional after-school hours for grades
29	kindergarten through twelve (K-12);
30	(5) Identify private or federal grants available to address the
31	prevention of sexual assault and to promote student success, including any
32	partnerships necessary to successfully compete for grants;
33	(6) Collaborate with the Department of Health or federally
34	qualified health centers, or both, to promote access to care; and
35	(7) Identify other topics or issues relating to the prevention
36	and reduction of sexual assault.

1   (c)(1) The board shall present the action plan to the Legislative

2 Council upon its completion but no later than November 3, 2017.

3   (2) The board shall report on the status of the action plan

4 annually to:

5   (A) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Public Health,

6 Welfare, and Labor;

7   (B) The Chair of the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare,

8 and Labor;

9   (C) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Education; and

10   (D) The Chair of the House Committee on Education.

11   (d) This section shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

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