

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4

As Engrossed: H2/27/17

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1518

5 By: Representatives Sturch, D. Ferguson
6

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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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 at a rate of forty-two and three-tenths
30 (42.3) reported forcible rapes per one hundred thousand (100,000) people, a
31 significantly higher rate of reported forcible rapes than the national
32 average;

33 (3) Sexual assault is one (1) of the most underreported crimes
34 with only thirty-five to forty percent (35-40%) of sexual assaults reported
35 to police;

36 (4) Individuals between the ages of twelve (12) and thirty-four



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

2 (5) Women and girls between the ages of sixteen (16) and
3 nineteen (19) are four (4) times more likely than the general population to
4 be victims of sexual assault;

5 (6) Victims of sexual assault are:

6 (A) Three (3) times more likely to suffer from depression;

7 (B) Six (6) times more likely to suffer from post-
8 traumatic stress disorder;

9 (C) Thirteen (13) times more likely to abuse alcohol;

10 (D) Twenty-six (26) times more likely to abuse drugs; and

11 (E) Four (4) times more likely to contemplate suicide; and

12 (7) Community colleges and universities in Arkansas provide a
13 critical venue to address the prevention of sexual assault.

14
15 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 60, Subchapter 1, is amended
16 to add an additional section to read as follows:

17 6-60-111. Sexual assault action plan.

18 (a) On and after November 3, 2017, the Arkansas Higher Education
19 Coordinating Board, in collaboration with all public university and community
20 college presidents and chancellors or their designees, shall develop an
21 action plan to address the prevention of sexual assault.

22 (b) The action plan shall:

23 (1) Incorporate sexual assault prevention information for
24 students through advising and student orientation;

25 (2) Integrate information about the prevention of sexual assault
26 into academic courses if and when appropriate;

27 (3) Identify opportunities to raise awareness of and provide
28 resources for the prevention of sexual assault across the entire student
29 population;

30 (4) Identify opportunities for current students to reach out to
31 younger teens to serve as mentors or role models, or both, of successful
32 behaviors and healthy choices, including opportunities for outreach during
33 summer vacation or during traditional after-school hours for grades
34 kindergarten through twelve (K-12);

35 (5) Identify private or federal grants available to address the
36 prevention of sexual assault and to promote student success, including any

1 partnerships necessary to successfully compete for grants;

2 (6) Collaborate with the Department of Health or federally
3 qualified health centers, or both, to promote access to care; and

4 (7) Identify other topics or issues relating to the prevention
5 and reduction of sexual assault.

6 (c) If an institution of higher education has already implemented any
7 portion of the action plan as described in subsection (b) of this section,
8 the institution of higher education may submit a report to the board
9 detailing the portion that the institution of higher education has fulfilled.

10 (d)(1) The board shall present the action plan to the Legislative
11 Council upon its completion but no later than November 3, 2017.

12 (2) The board shall report on the status of the action plan
13 annually to:

14 (A) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Public Health,
15 Welfare, and Labor;

16 (B) The Chair of the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare,
17 and Labor;

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

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

20 (e) This section shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

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22 *SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-62-803, concerning limits on funding for*
23 *athletic programs, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as*
24 *follows:*

25 (c) This section shall not apply to expenditures related to compliance
26 with § 6-60-111 or increased compliance under 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f).

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28 /s/Sturch
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