

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1608

5 By: Representatives Scott, Crawford
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT REQUIRING THE STUDY OF ADVERSE CHILDHOOD
9 EXPERIENCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
10

Subtitle

11
12 REQUIRING THE STUDY OF ADVERSE CHILDHOOD
13 EXPERIENCES.
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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19 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Adverse childhood experiences study.

20 (a) The House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and
21 Military Affairs and the Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth shall
22 perform a study on adverse childhood experiences by, including without
23 limitation:

24 (1) Analyzing existing resources that are related to building
25 resilience in early childhood;

26 (2) Proposing appropriate structures for advancing the most
27 evidence-based or evidence-informed and cost-effective approaches to serving
28 children who have experienced trauma caused by adverse childhood experiences
29 by:

30 (A) Identifying by service area existing intervention
31 programs for children and families, populations served by intervention
32 programs, and the effectiveness of identified intervention programs;

33 (B) Determining whether there are any statewide or
34 regional gaps in services for interventions on behalf of children and
35 families;

36 (C) Exploring previous and ongoing initiatives of the



1 Department of Human Services and the Department of Education that address
 2 trauma caused by adverse childhood experiences;

3 (D) Considering possible legislative proposals that use
 4 evidence-based or evidence-informed and cost-effective interventions for
 5 children and families based on the strengths and weaknesses of existing
 6 services; and

7 (E) Determining the fiscal impact and staffing needs
 8 related to changes in services offered by the state to children and families;
 9 and

10 (3) Hearing testimony from a diverse array of public and private
 11 stakeholders.

12 (b)(1) By December 1, 2020, the House Committee on Aging, Children and
 13 Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs and the Senate Interim Committee on
 14 Children and Youth shall submit a joint report of its findings and
 15 recommendations to the:

16 (A) Governor;

17 (B) Speaker of the House of Representatives;

18 (C) President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

19 (D) Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth;

20 (E) House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth,
 21 Legislative and Military Affairs;

22 (F) Department of Human Services; and

23 (G) Department of Education.

24 (2) The joint report shall include without limitation:

25 (A) A spreadsheet by service area of each program or
 26 service that receives state or federal funds to provide intervention services
 27 to children and families;

28 (B) A spreadsheet by service area of the eligibility
 29 criteria for each program and service that provides intervention services to
 30 children and families;

31 (C) A compilation list of grants awarded to organizations
 32 that address childhood trauma caused by adverse childhood experiences and
 33 provide programs that build childhood resiliency;

34 (D) A summary concerning the method by which the
 35 Department of Human Services coordinates work related to childhood trauma
 36 prevention, screening, and treatment efforts;

1 (E) Training materials currently disseminated to early
2 childcare and learning professionals by the Department of Human Services or
3 the Department of Education regarding how to identify a student who may be
4 exposed to adverse childhood experiences and strategies for referring
5 families to community health teams and primary care medical homes; and

6 (F) A description of any existing programming within a
7 state agency or conducted in partnership with a local community group that is
8 aimed at addressing and reducing trauma cause by adverse childhood
9 experiences and the associated health risks to children.

10 (c)(1) By January 15, 2020, the Department of Human Services and the
11 Department of Education shall submit a written response to the joint report
12 submitted by the House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative
13 and Military Affairs and the Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth
14 under subsection (b) of this section to the:

15 (A) Governor;

16 (B) Speaker of the House of Representatives;

17 (C) President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

18 (D) Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth; and

19 (E) House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth,
20 Legislative and Military Affairs.

21 (2) The response of the Department of Human Services and the
22 Department of Education shall:

23 (A) Address the integration of evidence-based or evidence-
24 informed and family-focused prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery
25 services for children and families who are affected by adverse childhood
26 experiences;

27 (B) Address the respective coordination of evidence based
28 or evidence-informed and family-focused prevention, intervention, treatment,
29 and recovery services throughout the Department of Human Services and the
30 Department of Education; and

31 (C) Propose mechanisms for:

32 (i) Improving and engaging community providers in
33 the systematic prevention of trauma caused by adverse childhood experiences;

34 (ii) Case detection and care of individuals affected
35 by adverse childhood experiences; and

36 (iii) Ensuring that grants in support of children

1 and families that are awarded to the community partners of the Department of
2 Human Services or the Department of Education include requirements for
3 accountability and the assessment of outcomes for children with trauma caused
4 by adverse childhood experiences and their families.

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