

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1442

5 By: Representatives Vaught, Cavanaugh, C. Fite, Scott
6 By: Senator K. Hammer
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE CHILD MALTREATMENT ACT; TO AMEND
10 THE LAWS CONCERNING THE CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE; TO
11 TRANSFER THE CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE FROM THE DEPARTMENT
12 OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES;
13 TO ABOLISH THE CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN DIVISION OF
14 THE DIVISION OF ARKANSAS STATE POLICE; TO TRANSFER
15 ALL CIVIL CHILD MALTREATMENT INVESTIGATIONS THAT ARE
16 ASSIGNED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY UNDER THE
17 CHILD MALTREATMENT ACT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
18 SERVICES; TO REMOVE ADDITIONAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS
19 UNDER THE CHILD MALTREATMENT ACT; TO ALLOW FOR A
20 TRANSITION PROCESS TO COMPLETE THE TRANSFERS OF THE
21 CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE AND ALL CIVIL CHILD MALTREATMENT
22 INVESTIGATIONS; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR
23 OTHER PURPOSES.
24

Subtitle

25
26
27 TO TRANSFER THE CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE AND
28 ALL CIVIL CHILD MALTREATMENT
29 INVESTIGATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF
30 PUBLIC SAFETY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
31 SERVICES; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.
32

33
34 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
35

36 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Purpose and legislative intent.



1 (a)(1) It is the intent of the General Assembly that civil child
2 maltreatment investigations should be conducted separate and apart from
3 criminal investigations involving child victims.

4 (2) Thus, the Child Abuse Hotline, currently administered by the
5 Division of Arkansas State Police, shall be transferred to the Department of
6 Human Services for regular administration no sooner than July 1, 2023, and no
7 later than December 31, 2023.

8 (b) Further, the General Assembly, in passing this act, intends to
9 abolish the Crimes Against Children Division of the Division of Arkansas
10 State Police and transfer all current civil child maltreatment duties to the
11 Department of Human Services no sooner than July 1, 2025, and no later than
12 December 31, 2025.

13 (c) For both the transfer of the Child Abuse Hotline and the transfer
14 of all civil child maltreatment duties, the Secretary of the Department of
15 Human Services shall provide written notice to the Secretary of the
16 Department of Public Safety, the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, the
17 Governor, and the Director of the Bureau of Legislative Research of the date
18 that the transfer is being initiated, as well as the date that the process of
19 the transfer has been completed.

20 (d)(1) Lastly, the General Assembly recognizes that there are statutes
21 in the Arkansas Code regarding civil child maltreatment investigations which
22 reference the conducting of said investigations by the Division of Arkansas
23 State Police, but which will need to remain in effect during this multiyear
24 transition phase.

25 (2) It is the intent of the General Assembly to amend those
26 statutes accordingly in a later Regular Session to allow for necessary
27 administration of current ongoing civil child maltreatment cases during the
28 transition phase.

29
30 SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. Transfer of the Child Abuse Hotline from
31 the Department of Public Safety to the Department of Human Services.

32 (a) The Child Abuse Hotline shall be transferred by a cabinet-level
33 department transfer under § 25-43-101 et seq. from the Department of Public
34 Safety to the Department of Human Services no sooner than July 1, 2023, and
35 no later than December 31, 2023.

36 (b) The administrative functions of the Child Abuse Hotline are

1 transferred by a cabinet-level department transfer under § 25-43-902 from the
2 Department of Public Safety to the Department of Human Services no sooner
3 than July 1, 2023, and no later than December 31, 2023.

4 (c) The statutory authority, powers, duties, functions, records,
5 personnel, property, contracts, and unexpended balances of appropriations,
6 allocations, or other funds, including the functions of budgeting or
7 purchasing of the Child Abuse Hotline, shall be transferred to the Department
8 of Human Services no sooner than July 1, 2023, and no later than December 31,
9 2023.

10 (d)(1) The transfer of the Child Abuse Hotline does not affect the
11 orders, rules, regulations, directives, or standards made or promulgated by
12 the Child Abuse Hotline before the effective date of this act.

13 (2) The orders, rules, regulations, directives, or standards
14 under subdivision (d)(1) of this section shall continue with full force and
15 effect until amended or repealed under authority given by law.

16 (e) The Department of Public Safety shall grant access to and provide
17 all information requested by the Department of Human Services to accomplish
18 the transfer of the Child Abuse Hotline and the mission of the Child Abuse
19 Hotline.

20 (f) For both the transfer of the Child Abuse Hotline and the transfer
21 of all civil child maltreatment duties, the Secretary of the Department of
22 Human Services shall provide written notice to the Secretary of the
23 Department of Public Safety, the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, the
24 Governor, and the Director of the Bureau of Legislative Research of the date
25 that the transfer is being initiated, as well as the date that the process of
26 the transfer has been completed.

27
28 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-18-712(a), concerning posting the Child
29 Abuse Hotline telephone number in public schools and open-enrollment charter
30 schools, is amended to read as follows:

31 (a) Each public school and open-enrollment charter school shall post a
32 sign that contains the toll-free telephone number for the Child Abuse Hotline
33 established by the Department of Human Services ~~and the Division of Arkansas~~
34 ~~State Police~~ under § 12-18-301.

35
36 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 12-8-106(c), concerning the authority of

1 the Division of Arkansas State Police to establish a Crimes Against Children
 2 Division and to administer the Child Abuse Hotline, is repealed.

3 ~~(e) The Division of Arkansas State Police shall have the authority to~~
 4 ~~establish a Crimes Against Children Division, either through transfer or by~~
 5 ~~contract, to conduct child abuse investigations, to administer the Child~~
 6 ~~Abuse Hotline, and, when consistent with rules promulgated by the Division of~~
 7 ~~Arkansas State Police, to provide training and technical assistance to local~~
 8 ~~law enforcement in conducting child abuse investigations.~~

9
 10 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 12-8-501 is amended to read as follows:

11 12-8-501. Legislative intent.

12 (a) The General Assembly recognizes that+

13 ~~(1) The the state has a responsibility to:~~

14 (1) Provide competent and thorough child abuse maltreatment
 15 investigations which are sensitive to the needs of children and families; and

16 (2) Ensure that civil child maltreatment investigations are
 17 conducted separate and apart from ongoing criminal investigations involving
 18 child victims.

19 ~~(2) It is difficult for caseworkers with the Department of Human~~
 20 ~~Services, which is currently charged with the responsibilities of~~
 21 ~~investigating child abuse and providing services to children and families, to~~
 22 ~~separate their dual roles as investigators and service providers;~~

23 ~~(3) Many studies show that child abuse investigations are~~
 24 ~~compromised when these very different functions are not separated; and~~

25 ~~(4) Child abuse is a crime and suspected child abuse should be~~
 26 ~~investigated with due diligence by trained law enforcement officers.~~

27 (b) Therefore, it is declared to be the intent of this General
 28 Assembly to authorize abolish the Crimes Against Children Division of the
 29 Department Division of Arkansas State Police to+ and to transfer all current
 30 civil child maltreatment duties to the Department of Human Services.

31 ~~(1) Create a Crimes Against Children Division, either through~~
 32 ~~transfer or by contract;~~

33 ~~(2) Conduct investigations into severe child abuse as defined by~~
 34 ~~interagency agreement; and~~

35 ~~(3) Administer the Child Abuse Hotline.~~

36

1 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 12-8-502 is repealed.

2 ~~12-8-502. Transfer of powers and duties—Sections of unit—Sharing~~
3 ~~of information.~~

4 ~~(a) When the powers and duties of the Department of Human Services in~~
5 ~~regard to the Child Abuse Hotline and child abuse investigations are~~
6 ~~transferred to the Department of Arkansas State Police or when the Department~~
7 ~~of Human Services and the Department of Arkansas State Police contract for~~
8 ~~the administration of the Child Abuse Hotline or for the Department of~~
9 ~~Arkansas State Police to conduct child abuse investigations, or both, the~~
10 ~~Department of Arkansas State Police shall establish a Crimes Against Children~~
11 ~~Division.~~

12 ~~(b) The division shall consist of two (2) sections:~~

13 ~~(1)(A) The Investigation Section, which shall be staffed with~~
14 ~~civilian personnel and shall be responsible for the investigation of~~
15 ~~allegations of child abuse in accordance with the Child Maltreatment Act, §~~
16 ~~12-18-101 et seq.~~

17 ~~(B) Unless the case involves alleged severe maltreatment, if at~~
18 ~~any point during the investigation of alleged child maltreatment the~~
19 ~~information gathered becomes sufficient for a possible criminal prosecution,~~
20 ~~then the case shall be referred for further investigation to the appropriate~~
21 ~~law enforcement agency.~~

22 ~~(C) The Investigation Section shall complete an investigation of~~
23 ~~all cases assigned to the Investigation Section and refer the case to a local~~
24 ~~law enforcement agency or a prosecuting attorney for possible criminal~~
25 ~~prosecution; and~~

26 ~~(2) The Child Abuse Hotline Section, which shall administer~~
27 ~~twenty-four hour toll-free inward wide-area telephone services (INWATS) to~~
28 ~~report to the Department of Arkansas State Police information regarding~~
29 ~~possible incidents of child abuse.~~

30 ~~(c)(1) The division shall develop and maintain statewide statistics~~
31 ~~regarding the incidence of child abuse.~~

32 ~~(2) Each county and city law enforcement agency conducting child~~
33 ~~abuse investigations through referral from the Child Abuse Hotline shall~~
34 ~~report the status and disposition of these investigations to the division on~~
35 ~~a monthly basis.~~

36 ~~(d)(1) If the powers and duties of the Department of Human Services in~~

1 ~~regard to the Child Abuse Hotline and child abuse investigations are~~
 2 ~~transferred to the Department of Arkansas State Police, the division and the~~
 3 ~~Department of Human Services shall enter into a memorandum of understanding~~
 4 ~~that shall include provisions that address the sharing of information~~
 5 ~~reported to the Child Abuse Hotline with the Department of Human Services~~
 6 ~~when such information is necessary for the division to provide appropriate~~
 7 ~~service delivery to children and families.~~

8 ~~(2) If the Department of Human Services and the Department of~~
 9 ~~Arkansas State Police contract for the administration of the Child Abuse~~
 10 ~~Hotline or for the Department of Arkansas State Police to conduct child abuse~~
 11 ~~investigations, or both, the contract shall include provisions that address~~
 12 ~~the sharing of information reported to the Child Abuse Hotline with the~~
 13 ~~Department of Human Services when such information is necessary for the~~
 14 ~~division to provide appropriate service delivery to children and families.~~

15
 16 SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 12-8-503 is amended to read as follows:

17 12-8-503. Transfer of powers and duties – Executive orders –
 18 Contracts.

19 (a)(1) The Governor shall issue an executive order transferring the
 20 powers and duties of the ~~Department of Human Services~~ Division of Arkansas
 21 State Police in regard to the Child Abuse Hotline to the ~~Department of~~
 22 ~~Arkansas State Police~~ Department of Human Services by a type 2 transfer as
 23 defined in § 25-2-105 or the ~~Department of Human Services~~ department and the
 24 ~~Department of Arkansas State Police~~ division shall enter into a contract for
 25 the administration of the Child Abuse Hotline in accordance with this
 26 subchapter.

27 (2) Personnel transferred with the Child Abuse Hotline shall be
 28 required to meet employment standards and policies established by the
 29 ~~Department of Arkansas State Police~~ department in order to retain their
 30 employment.

31 (b)(1) The Governor shall issue an executive order transferring the
 32 powers and duties of the ~~Department of Human Services~~ division in regard to
 33 child abuse investigations to the ~~Department of Arkansas State Police~~
 34 department by a type 2 transfer as defined in § 25-2-105 or the ~~Department of~~
 35 ~~Human Services~~ department and the ~~Department of Arkansas State Police~~
 36 division shall enter into a contract for the ~~Department of Arkansas State~~

1 ~~Police~~ department to conduct child abuse investigations in accordance with
 2 this subchapter.

3 (2) Personnel transferred in regard to child abuse
 4 investigations shall be required to meet employment standards and policies
 5 established by the ~~Department of Arkansas State Police~~ department in order to
 6 retain their employment.

7
 8 SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 12-8-504 is amended to read as follows:
 9 12-8-504. Transition plan – Continuous service.

10 (a) If a transfer of child abuse investigations occurs, any and all
 11 statutory authority, powers, duties, functions, records, authorized
 12 positions, property, unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, or
 13 other funds of the ~~Division of Children and Family Services of the Department~~
 14 ~~of Human Services~~ Division of Arkansas State Police for the purposes of child
 15 abuse investigations to be transferred to the ~~Department of Arkansas State~~
 16 ~~Police~~ Department of Human Services shall be transferred only after the
 17 development of a transition plan that will ensure the efficient and effective
 18 transfer of the powers and duties of the ~~Department of Human Services~~
 19 Division of Arkansas State Police to the ~~Department of Arkansas State Police~~
 20 Department of Human Services so that there is continuous service delivery to
 21 and protection of the children of the State of Arkansas.

22 ~~(b) If the Department of Human Services and the Department of Arkansas~~
 23 ~~State Police enter into a contract for the Department of Arkansas State~~
 24 ~~Police to conduct child abuse investigations, the contract shall include a~~
 25 ~~transition plan that ensures continuous service delivery to and protection of~~
 26 ~~the children of the State of Arkansas.~~

27 ~~(c)~~(b) The Department of Human Services and the ~~Department~~ Division of
 28 Arkansas State Police shall submit for review any transition plan developed
 29 under this section to the House Subcommittee on Children and Youth of the
 30 House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military
 31 Affairs and the Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth.

32
 33 SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 12-8-505 is repealed.
 34 ~~12-8-505. Child abuse hotline and investigations.~~

35 ~~The Child Abuse Hotline and child abuse investigations referred to in~~
 36 ~~this subchapter shall be operated and conducted in accordance with the Child~~

1 ~~Maltreatment Act, § 12-18-101 et seq.~~

2
3 SECTION 10. Arkansas Code § 12-8-508 is repealed.

4 ~~12-8-508. Provision of information and assistance.~~

5 ~~Notwithstanding a rule to the contrary, upon request of a member of the~~
6 ~~General Assembly or legislative staff or upon request of a legislative~~
7 ~~committee, the Crimes Against Children Division of the Division of Arkansas~~
8 ~~State Police shall immediately provide information requested with respect to~~
9 ~~child welfare as contemplated under the Arkansas Child Welfare Public~~
10 ~~Accountability Act, § 9-32-201 et seq.~~

11
12 SECTION 11. Arkansas Code § 12-8-509 is repealed.

13 ~~12-8-509. Additional reporting required.~~

14 ~~(a) The state agency or entity responsible for administering the~~
15 ~~twenty-four-hour toll-free Child Abuse Hotline or investigating an incident~~
16 ~~of neglect as defined under § 12-18-103(14)(B) shall:~~

17 ~~(1) Develop and maintain statewide statistics of the incidents~~
18 ~~of neglect reported or investigated under § 12-18-103(14)(B);~~

19 ~~(2)(A) Annually report no later than October 1 to the following:~~

20 ~~(i) The Senate Interim Committee on Children and~~
21 ~~Youth;~~

22 ~~(ii) The House Committee on Aging, Children and~~
23 ~~Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs;~~

24 ~~(iii) The Senate Committee on Public Health,~~
25 ~~Welfare, and Labor; and~~

26 ~~(iv) The House Committee on Public Health, Welfare,~~
27 ~~and Labor.~~

28 ~~(B) The annual report under this section shall include all~~
29 ~~findings and statistics regarding incidents of neglect reported or~~
30 ~~investigated under § 12-18-103(14)(B), including, but not limited to, the~~
31 ~~following information:~~

32 ~~(i) The age of the mother;~~

33 ~~(ii) The type of illegal substance to which the~~
34 ~~newborn child was exposed prenatally;~~

35 ~~(iii) The estimated gestational age of the newborn~~
36 ~~child at the time of birth; and~~

1 limitation the:

2 (i) Creation of a secondary review of an accepted
3 report of child maltreatment by the investigating agency assigned under § 12-
4 18-601 to ensure that the report of child maltreatment meets the requirements
5 of this section; and

6 (ii) Ability of the Child Abuse Hotline and the
7 investigating agency to contact the Department of Human Services to obtain or
8 determine information relevant to whether a report of child maltreatment
9 should be accepted.

10
11 SECTION 15. Arkansas Code § 12-18-506 is amended to read as follows:

12 12-18-506. Notice when the alleged offender works with children, the
13 elderly, an individual with a disability, an individual with a mental
14 illness, is engaged in child-related activities, or is a juvenile.

15 (a) If the Child Abuse Hotline receives a report naming as an alleged
16 offender a person who is engaged in child-related activities or employment,
17 works with the elderly, an individual with a disability, or an individual
18 with a mental illness, or is a juvenile and the Department of Human Services
19 or ~~the Department of Arkansas State Police~~ Division of Arkansas State Police
20 has determined that children, the elderly, or individuals with a disability
21 or mental illness under the care of the alleged offender appear to be at risk
22 of maltreatment by the alleged offender, the ~~Department of Human Services~~
23 department or ~~the Department of Arkansas State Police~~ may notify the
24 following of the report made to the Child Abuse Hotline:

25 (1) The alleged offender's employer;

26 (2) The school superintendent, principal, or a person in an
27 equivalent position where the alleged offender is employed;

28 (3) The person in charge of a paid or volunteer activity; and

29 (4) The appropriate licensing or registering authority to the
30 extent necessary to carry out its official responsibilities.

31 (b) The ~~Department of Human Services~~ department and the ~~Department of~~
32 ~~Arkansas State Police~~ shall promulgate rules to ensure that notification
33 required under subsection (a) of this section is specifically approved by a
34 responsible manager in the ~~Department of Human Services~~ department or the
35 ~~Department of Arkansas State Police~~ before the notification is made.

36 (c) If the ~~Department of Human Services~~ department and the ~~Department~~

1 ~~of Arkansas State Police division~~, based on information gathered during the
2 course of the investigation, determine that there is no preponderance of the
3 evidence indicating that children under the care of the alleged offender
4 appear to be at risk, the ~~Department of Human Services department~~ and the
5 ~~Department of Arkansas State Police division~~ shall immediately notify the
6 previously notified person or entity of that information.

7 (d)(1) If the Child Abuse Hotline receives a report naming a juvenile
8 as an alleged offender who is in a setting or circumstances where other
9 children may be at risk, the ~~Department of Human Services department~~ and the
10 ~~Department of Arkansas State Police~~ may notify the entity or person in charge
11 about the Child Abuse Hotline report.

12 (2) The ~~Department of Human Services department~~ and the
13 ~~Department of Arkansas State Police~~ shall promulgate rules to ensure that the
14 notification required under subsection (d) of this section is specifically
15 approved by a responsible manager in the ~~Department of Human Services~~
16 ~~department~~ or the ~~Department of Arkansas State Police~~ before notification is
17 made.

18 (3) If the ~~Department of Human Services department~~ and the
19 ~~Department of Arkansas State Police division~~, based on information gathered
20 during the course of the investigation, determine that there is no
21 preponderance of the evidence indicating that children appear to be at risk,
22 the ~~Department of Human Services department~~ and the ~~Department of Arkansas~~
23 ~~State Police division~~ shall immediately notify the person or entity
24 originally notified under subdivision (d)(1) of this section of that
25 information.

26
27 SECTION 16. Arkansas Code § 12-18-507 is amended to read as follows:

28 12-18-507. Notice when the alleged victim is a resident of a facility
29 licensed, registered, or operated by the state.

30 (a) If the Child Abuse Hotline receives a report that a client or a
31 resident of a facility licensed or registered by the State of Arkansas has
32 been subjected to child maltreatment while at the facility, the Department of
33 Human Services and the ~~Department of Arkansas State Police~~ shall immediately
34 notify the facility director and the facility's licensing or registering
35 authority of the Child Abuse Hotline's receipt of a report of suspected child
36 maltreatment.

1 (b) If the Child Abuse Hotline receives a report that a client or a
2 resident of a facility operated by the ~~Department of Human Services~~
3 department or a facility operated under contract with the ~~Department of Human~~
4 ~~Services~~ department has been subjected to child maltreatment while at the
5 facility, the ~~Department of Human Services~~ department and the ~~Department of~~
6 ~~Arkansas State Police~~ shall immediately notify the appropriate division
7 director and the facility director of the Child Abuse Hotline's receipt of
8 initial report of suspected child maltreatment.

9 (c) If the Child Abuse Hotline receives a report that a child in the
10 custody of the ~~Department of Human Services~~ department has been subjected to
11 child maltreatment while in the custody of the ~~Department of Human Services~~
12 department, the ~~Department of Human Services~~ department and the ~~Department of~~
13 ~~Arkansas State Police~~ shall immediately notify the appropriate division
14 director of the Child Abuse Hotline's receipt of an initial report of
15 suspected child maltreatment.

16
17 SECTION 17. Arkansas Code § 12-18-508 is amended to read as follows:

18 12-18-508. Notice to United States military organizations of alleged
19 child maltreatment – Definitions.

20 (a) As used in this section:

21 (1) "Active duty service member" means a military member on
22 full-time duty in the United States Army, United States Marine Corps, United
23 States Navy, or United States Air Force;

24 (2) "Child" means a biological child, adopted child, stepchild,
25 foster child, or ward of an active duty service member; and

26 (3) "Family advocacy program" means a congressionally mandated
27 United States Department of Defense activity implemented through branches of
28 the United States Armed Forces to address domestic abuse and child abuse
29 through prevention, response, clinical assessment, treatment, and related
30 services for active duty service members and their families.

31 (b) When the Child Abuse Hotline accepts a report involving as an
32 alleged victim a child of an active duty service member, the Department of
33 Human Services or the Division of Arkansas State Police shall immediately
34 notify the applicable family advocacy program or other person or entity
35 designated by the military authority for the military installation associated
36 with the active duty service member.

1 (c) When the Child Abuse Hotline accepts a report involving as an
2 alleged offender a person who is an active duty service member, the
3 Department of Human Services or the Division of Arkansas State Police shall
4 immediately notify the applicable family advocacy program or other person or
5 entity designated by the military authority for the military installation
6 associated with the active duty service member.

7 (d)(1) When the Child Abuse Hotline accepts a report alleging child
8 maltreatment that occurred during an activity conducted or sanctioned by the
9 United States Department of Defense or its subdivisions, or occurred at a
10 facility operated by the United States Department of Defense or its
11 subdivisions, the Department of Human Services or the Division of Arkansas
12 State Police shall immediately notify the applicable family advocacy program
13 or other person or entity designated by the military authority for the
14 military installation associated with the activity or facility.

15 (2) Facilities covered under the notification requirement in
16 subdivision (d)(1) of this section include without limitation all military
17 installations and recruiting locations, as well as schools, daycares, and
18 youth programs operated by the United States Department of Defense or its
19 subdivisions, and schools, daycares, and youth programs that are allowed to
20 operate on military installations, recruiting locations, or other military
21 facilities.

22 (e) The notice required under this section shall include notice of the
23 Child Abuse Hotline's receipt of a report of suspected child maltreatment.

24 (f) The Department of Human Services ~~and the Division of Arkansas~~
25 ~~State Police~~ may promulgate rules and enter into memoranda of understanding
26 with the United States Department of Defense and its subdivisions to ensure
27 that the notification required under this section is provided.

28
29 SECTION 18. Arkansas Code § 25-43-902(a), concerning the
30 administrative functions of state entities that are transferred to the
31 Department of Human Services, is amended to add an additional subdivision to
32 read as follows:

33 (16) The Child Abuse Hotline, created under § 12-18-301.
34

35 SECTION 19. Arkansas Code § 25-43-1402(a)(6), concerning the
36 administrative functions of the Child Abuse Hotline being transferred to the

1 Department of Public Safety, is repealed.

2 ~~(6) The Child Abuse Hotline, created under § 12-18-301,~~

3
 4 SECTION 20. Arkansas Code § 25-43-1402(a)(7), concerning the
 5 administrative functions of the Crimes Against Children Division being
 6 transferred to the Department of Public Safety, is repealed.

7 ~~(7) The Crimes Against Children Division, created under § 12-8-~~
 8 ~~502.~~

9
 10 SECTION 21. DO NOT CODIFY. Delayed effective dates.

11 (a) SECTIONS 4, 6, 10, and 20 of this act will become effective on the
 12 date of December 31, 2025.

13 (b) SECTIONS 9, 18, and 19 of this act will become effective on the
 14 date that the transfer of the Child Abuse Hotline from the Department of
 15 Public Safety to the Department of Human Services under this act has been
 16 completed.

17
 18 SECTION 22. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
 19 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the Child Abuse Hotline
 20 preserves the public peace, health, and safety by providing a vehicle for the
 21 reporting of suspected child maltreatment under the Child Maltreatment Act, §
 22 12-18-101 et seq.; that this act provides for the transfer of the Child Abuse
 23 Hotline to the Department of Human Services; and that this act should become
 24 effective on July 1, 2023, to coincide with the appropriation bills of the
 25 Department of Public Safety and the Department of Human Services and ensure
 26 that the Child Abuse Hotline continues to provide its vital services as the
 27 transfer is implemented and does not experience any issues with funding under
 28 this transfer. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act
 29 being necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety
 30 shall become effective on July 1, 2023.