

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to law as it existed prior to the 82nd General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 82nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1999

A Bill

SENATE BILL 787

4
5 By: Senator Bradford
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 "AN ACT TO CONTINUE THE UNWED BIRTH AND TEENAGE
10 PREGNANCY PREVENTION PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT OF
11 HEALTH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Subtitle

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14 "TO CONTINUE THE UNWED BIRTH AND TEENAGE
15 PREGNANCY PREVENTION PROGRAM."
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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20 SECTION 1. The General Assembly finds that:

21 (1) The number of births to unwed women and to teenage parents has
22 increased in our country and state during the past fifty (50) years;

23 (2) There were twelve thousand one hundred and fifty-seven (12,157)
24 unwed births in Arkansas in 1996, which represent thirty-three point four
25 percent (33.4%) of all births in the state;

26 (3) There were four thousand six hundred and fifty-one (4,651) unwed
27 births to teenagers in Arkansas in 1995, which represent thirty-eight point
28 three percent (38.3%) of all unmarried births in the state;

29 (4) Unwed births and teenage pregnancy are problems which have
30 tremendous financial and human consequences for present and future
31 generations, and prevention programs can serve as the basis for welfare reform
32 efforts by reducing the number of persons in need of public assistance;

33 (5) A comprehensive program to reduce the number of unwed births and
34 teenage pregnancies, which includes local initiatives developed by community
35 coalitions, should be coordinated at the state level.
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1 SECTION 2. (a) The Department of Health shall be designated to
2 coordinate interagency efforts and to serve as the administrative and fiscal
3 agent of the Unwed Birth and Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Program. The
4 program shall involve a multi-faceted approach to the problems associated with
5 unwed births and teenage pregnancies that is cognizant of community needs and
6 values. The department shall receive advice and input regarding the
7 management of the program from both the Unwed Birth Prevention Steering
8 Committee and the Governor's Steering Committee on Abstinence Education. The
9 program shall include, but not be limited to abstinence education initiatives,
10 pregnancy planning, risk factors impacting teen and unwed births, prevention
11 strategies, a comprehensive media campaign, grants to local communities and
12 program evaluation.

13 (b) State agencies that provide services to unwed mothers, teenage
14 parents, and teenagers shall cooperate in administering the program with the
15 Department of Health.

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17 SECTION 3. Legislative oversight of program activities shall be
18 provided by the House and Senate Committees on Public Health, Welfare and
19 Labor.

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21 SECTION 4. The provisions of this act shall automatically expire on
22 July 1, 2001 unless extended by an act of the legislature.

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24 SECTION 5. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
25 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
26 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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28 SECTION 6. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
29 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
30 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
31 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
32 act are declared to be severable.

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34 SECTION 7. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
35 hereby repealed.

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