

1 State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H2/4/25 H2/13/25*

2 95th General Assembly

A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2025

HOUSE BILL 1292

4

5 By: Representative Bentley

6 By: Senator K. Hammer

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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
10 ADOPTION OF A MINOR; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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Subtitle

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TO AMEND THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR
15 THE ADOPTION OF A MINOR.

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

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19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 9-9-213 is amended to read as follows:
20 9-9-213. Required residence of minor.

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(a)(1) A In an adoption where the child is not in the custody of the
Department of Human Services, a final decree of adoption shall not be issued
and an interlocutory decree of adoption does not become final until the minor
to be adopted, other than a stepchild of the petitioner, has lived in the
home for at least six (6) months after:

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(A) ~~placement~~ Placement by ~~an~~ a child placement agency
licensed under the Child Welfare Agency Licensing Act, § 9-28-401 et seq.; or
(B) ~~for at least six (6) months after the~~ The petition for
adoption is filed.

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(2) This subsection does not apply if the minor to be adopted
is:
(A) The stepchild of the petitioner; or
(B) Less than six (6) months of age at the time the
petition was filed.

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(b) In an adoption where the child is in the custody of the
department, a final decree of adoption shall not be issued and an



1 interlocutory decree of adoption does not become final until the minor to be
2 adopted has lived in the home for at least six (6) months unless:

3 (1) Residence in the home is not required for a The minor to be
4 adopted if the minor is in the custody of the Department of Human Services,
5 and the minor must reside outside of the home to receive medically necessary
6 health care;

7 (2) The minor to be adopted is less than six (6) months of age;
8 or

9 (3) The Director of the Division of Children and Family Services
10 waives the residency requirement for a minor to be adopted when the minor is
11 sixteen (16) years of age or older and is participating in a life skills,
12 technical, or vocational program.

13 ~~(c) This section does not apply to a minor who is:~~

14 ~~(1) Less than six (6) months of age at the time the petition for~~
15 ~~adoption is filed; and~~

16 ~~(2) Not in the custody of the Department of Human Services.~~

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18 /s/Bentley
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