

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

As Engrossed: H2/27/17 H3/9/17
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1518

By: Representatives Sturch, D. Ferguson

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION
COORDINATING BOARD TO DEVELOP AN ACTION PLAN TO
ADDRESS THE PREVENTION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REQUIRE THE ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION
COORDINATING BOARD TO DEVELOP AN ACTION
PLAN TO ADDRESS THE PREVENTION OF SEXUAL
ASSAULT.

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

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) One (1) out of every six (6) American women and one (1) out of every thirty-three (33) American men have been the victim of an attempted or completed rape;

(2) Arkansas is ranked forty-seventh among the states in the number of reported forcible rapes at a rate of forty-two and three-tenths (42.3) reported forcible rapes per one hundred thousand (100,000) people, a significantly higher rate of reported forcible rapes than the national average;

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

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



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

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

(6) Victims of sexual assault are:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6-60-111. Sexual assault action plan.

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

(b) The action plan shall:

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

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

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

(4) Identify private or federal grants available to address the prevention of sexual assault and to promote student success, including any partnerships necessary to successfully compete for grants;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

/s/Sturch

APPROVED: 03/22/2017