

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
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As Engrossed: H3/23/21 S4/20/21

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1642

By: Representative Underwood

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO PROMOTE SUCCESSFUL FAMILIES IN PUBLIC
HOUSING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO PROMOTE SUCCESSFUL FAMILIES IN PUBLIC
HOUSING.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 14, Chapter 169, Subchapter 1 is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

14-169-108. Child support cooperation – Legislative intent – Definitions.

(a) This section is:

(1) Intended to encourage and permit a public housing authority to give priority to a person who cooperates with the Office of Child Support Enforcement over a person who does not cooperate with the office;

(2) Not intended to permit a public housing authority to give priority to a person who cooperates with the office over a person who does not have a child support plan; and

(3) Not intended to penalize a custodial parent of a child or permit a public housing authority to penalize a custodial parent of a child when the noncustodial parent of the child fails to pay child support as ordered by a court.

(b) As used in this section:

(1) "Child support cooperation requirement" means cooperation as described in:



(A) The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program as authorized under 7 C.F.R. § 273.11, as it existed on January 1, 2021; and

(B) 7 C.F.R. § 273.11(o) and 7 C.F.R. § 273.11(p), as they existed on January 1, 2021, including without limitation the exemptions for good cause; and

(2) "Public housing authority" means a housing authority created under § 14-169-207.

(c)(1) A public housing authority shall operate, among eligible households on a waiting list for benefits, a housing-authority-wide local preference prioritizing the admission of a person who is compliant with the child support cooperation requirement, whether or not the person receives nutrition assistance benefits.

(2) A public housing authority shall determine the weight of the housing-authority-wide local preference prioritizing the admission of a person who is compliant with the child support cooperation requirement as compared to another applicable local preference based on local needs.

(d) A public housing authority shall:

(1) Operate a housing-authority-wide child support cooperation requirement; and

(2) Require compliance by a custodial parent or noncustodial parent as a condition of eligibility for housing benefits and assistance.

(e) This section does not permit a public housing authority to:

(1) Give priority to a person who cooperates with the office over a person who does not have a child support plan; or

(2) Penalize a custodial parent of a child when the noncustodial parent of the child fails to pay child support as ordered by a court.

SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. Temporary language.

A public housing authority shall submit all required waiver applications to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development by January 1, 2022, to obtain any necessary authority to implement this act by January 1, 2023.

/s/Underwood

APPROVED: 4/30/21