

SENATE AMENDMENT 1 TO sb520.

deleting the title in its entirety and substituting therefor the following:

"AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE ANNOTATED § 9-15-201 TO AUTHORIZE EMPLOYERS OF ABUSED PERSONS TO FILE PETITIONS FOR RELIEF UNDER THE ARKANSAS DOMESTIC ABUSE ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

AND

by deleting the subtitle in its entirety and substituting therefor the following:

"TO AUTHORIZE EMPLOYERS OF ABUSED PERSONS TO FILE PETITIONS FOR RELIEF UNDER THE ARKANSAS DOMESTIC ABUSE ACT."

AND

by deleting everything after the enacting clause and substituting therefor the following:

"SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Annotated § 9-15-201 is amended to read as follows:

"9-15-201. Petition - Requirements generally.

(a) All petitions under this chapter shall be verified.

(b) The petition shall be filed in the county where the petitioner resides, where the alleged incident of abuse occurred, or where the respondent may be served.

(c) A petition for relief under this chapter shall be filed in the chancery court.

(d) A petition may be filed by any family or household member, an employer of an abused person, or on behalf of another family or household member who is a minor or who has been adjudicated incompetent.

(e) A petition for relief shall allege the existence of domestic abuse and shall be accompanied by an affidavit made under oath stating the specific facts and circumstances of the domestic abuse and the specific relief sought.

(f) The petition may be filed regardless of whether there is any pending litigation between the parties.

(g) A person's right to file a petition, or obtain relief hereunder shall not be affected by his or her leaving the residence or household to avoid abuse."

SECTION 2. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

SECTION 3. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

SECTION 4. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.