

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2015-146

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3 REQUESTING THAT THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL REFER TO THE
4 HIGHER EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
5 A REQUEST TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS,
6 PREVENTION, AND RESPONSE ON THE FOUR-YEAR AND TWO-YEAR COLLEGE
7 AND UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES IN ARKANSAS.
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9 WHEREAS, the General Assembly has an obligation to ensure that our
10 colleges and universities keep our students safe; and
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12 WHEREAS, sexual assaults and attempted sexual assaults occur on
13 campuses large and small, urban and rural, private and public; and
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15 WHEREAS, a June 2015 poll by the Washington Post and the Kaiser Family
16 Foundation found that twenty percent (20%) of college women and five percent
17 (5%) of college men surveyed reported having been sexually assaulted; and
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19 WHEREAS, a February 2015 report by the Journal of Adolescent Health
20 found that nineteen percent (19%) of college women reported being a victim of
21 attempted or completed rape, either by force or while they were incapacitated
22 due to alcohol or drugs, during their freshman year; and
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24 WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of Education,
25 reports of forcible sex offenses on college campuses increased by eighty-four
26 percent (84%) from 2009 to 2013; and
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28 WHEREAS, as of May 2014, fifty-five (55) colleges and universities in
29 the United States were under investigation by the United States Department of
30 Education for possible violations of Title IX in their handling of sexual
31 assault cases; and
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33 WHEREAS, the number of colleges and universities in the United States
34 under investigation by the Department of Education for possible violations of
35 Title IX in their handling of sexual assault cases stood at one hundred
36 twenty-four (124) as of July 2015; and

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WHEREAS, while the forty-six (46) college and university campuses in Arkansas are not among the college and universities currently under investigation, it is critical that the Arkansas General Assembly ensure that our state's colleges and universities provide safe, secure campuses and properly respond to any sexual assault;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROPOSED BY THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the Arkansas Legislative Council refer to the Higher Education Subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Council a request to conduct a study of sexual assault awareness, prevention, and response on the four-year and two-year college campuses in Arkansas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT by July 1, 2017, the study be completed and a report presented to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Greg Leding
District 86

By: MBM/KFW