

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
89th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2013

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1352

By: Representatives Alexander, D. Altes, Ballinger, Barnett, Clemmer, Cozart, Deffenbaugh, Dotson, C. Douglas, Fite, Gossage, Hammer, Harris, Hobbs, Hutchison, Lea, Lowery, Miller, Payton, Scott, B. Wilkins
By: Senators Bledsoe, G. Stubblefield, J. Woods

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE PROVISIONS FOR PROGRAM
ELIGIBILITY IN THE ARKANSAS BETTER CHANCE PROGRAM; TO
DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE PROVISIONS FOR PROGRAM
ELIGIBILITY IN THE ARKANSAS BETTER CHANCE
PROGRAM AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-45-106(a)(1)(B), concerning the application process for the Arkansas Better Chance Program, is amended to read as follows:

(B) ~~All applications submitted by sectarian or sectarian-affiliated programs must first be reviewed to assure that any approval of funding will not result in a violation of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution~~ Arkansas Better Chance Program funding may be approved for and expended by a faith-based early childhood program if the program is selected by the parent of a child enrolled in the faith-based early childhood program and not by a state agency or officer.

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the Arkansas Better Chance



Program provides important early childhood learning experiences for thousands of Arkansas preschool children; that this act removes barriers for many of those children to attend a quality early childhood center under this program; and that this act is immediately necessary for the continuance of those quality programs in the 2013-2014 school year. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or

(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.