

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1849

By: Representative Baltz

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE PLACEMENT OF A JUVENILE REMOVED FROM HIS OR HER HOME; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE PLACEMENT OF A JUVENILE REMOVED FROM HIS OR HER HOME.

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

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings and intent.

(a) The General Assembly acknowledges that there are not enough foster homes for every child in foster care to be placed in a foster home in his or her community;

(b) The General Assembly recognizes the need for every child in foster care to be placed in a family setting in his or her community and with his or her community;

(c) Biological families and children would be better served if children who are removed from their home could remain in their home community instead of being placed outside of their home community;

(d) Placing a child who has been removed from his or her home in a family setting within the community and with his or her siblings would reduce the hardship on the child, his or her family, and family service workers who would no longer have to travel outside of the community for visitation or appointments with the child; and

(e) It is the intent of the General Assembly to support the Division



of Children and Family Services of the Department of Human Services to allow community providers to be compensated through a standard board payment when the provider provides a home with house parents.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 19-11-203(14)(I), concerning definitions pertaining to Arkansas Procurement Law, is amended to read as follows:

(I) Foster care maintenance services provided by foster family homes or a community provider that is licensed as a family style residential home or that provides a family home setting approved by the Division of Children and Family Services of the Department of Human Services for children whose placement and care are the responsibility of the Division of Children and Family Services of the Department of Human Services;