

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

State of Arkansas
92nd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2019

As Engrossed: H3/14/19
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1608

By: Representatives Scott, Crawford

By: Senator B. Davis

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING THE STUDY OF ADVERSE CHILDHOOD
EXPERIENCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

REQUIRING THE STUDY OF ADVERSE CHILDHOOD
EXPERIENCES.

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

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Adverse childhood experiences study.

(a) The House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs and the Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth shall perform a study on adverse childhood experiences by, including without limitation:

(1) Analyzing existing resources that are related to building resilience in early childhood;

(2) Proposing appropriate structures for advancing the most evidence-based or evidence-informed and cost-effective approaches to serving children who have experienced trauma caused by adverse childhood experiences by:

(A) Identifying by service area existing intervention programs for children and families, populations served by intervention programs, and the effectiveness of identified intervention programs;

(B) Determining whether there are any statewide or regional gaps in services for interventions on behalf of children and families;



(C) Exploring previous and ongoing initiatives of the Department of Human Services and the Department of Education that address trauma caused by adverse childhood experiences;

(D) Considering possible legislative proposals that use evidence-based or evidence-informed and cost-effective interventions for children and families based on the strengths and weaknesses of existing services; and

(E) Determining the fiscal impact and staffing needs related to changes in services offered by the state to children and families; and

(3) Hearing testimony from a diverse array of public and private stakeholders.

(b)(1) By December 31, 2020, the Department of Human Services and the Department of Education shall submit a report concerning adverse childhood experiences to the:

(A) Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth; and

(B) House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs.

(2) The report of the Department of Human Services and the Department of Education shall:

(A) Address the integration of evidence-based or evidence-informed and family-focused prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery services for children and families who are affected by adverse childhood experiences;

(B) Address the respective coordination of evidence-based or evidence-informed and family-focused prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery services throughout the Department of Human Services and the Department of Education;

(C) Propose mechanisms for:

(i) Improving and engaging community providers in the systematic prevention of trauma caused by adverse childhood experiences;

(ii) Case detection and care of individuals affected by adverse childhood experiences; and

(iii) Ensuring that grants in support of children and families that are awarded to the community partners of the Department of Human Services or the Department of Education include requirements for

accountability and the assessment of outcomes for children with trauma caused by adverse childhood experiences and for their families; and

(D) Include without limitation:

(i) A spreadsheet by service area of each program and service that receives state or federal funds to provide intervention services to children and families;

(ii) A spreadsheet by service area of the eligibility criteria for each program and service that provides intervention services to children and families;

(iii) A compilation list of grants awarded to organizations that address childhood trauma caused by adverse childhood experiences and provide programs that build childhood resiliency;

(iv) A summary concerning the method by which the Department of Human Services coordinates work related to childhood trauma prevention, screening, and treatment efforts;

(v) Training materials currently disseminated to early childcare and learning professionals by the Department of Human Services or the Department of Education regarding how to identify a student who may be exposed to adverse childhood experiences and strategies for referring families to community health teams and primary care medical homes; and

(vi) A description of any existing programming conducted within a state agency or in partnership with a local community group that is aimed at addressing and reducing trauma caused by adverse childhood experiences and the associated health risks to children.

/s/Scott