

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

State of Arkansas  
92nd General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2019

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1949

By: Representatives Vaught, Gazaway, M. Gray

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE STUDY ON  
MENTAL HEALTH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE STUDY  
ON MENTAL HEALTH.

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

SECTION 1. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. Arkansas Legislative Study on Mental Health – Creation – Duties.

(a) The Joint Performance Review Committee shall meet to conduct the Arkansas Legislative Study on Mental Health.

(b)(1) The chairs of the Joint Performance Review Committee shall call the first meeting for the purpose of beginning the study within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this act.

(2) The Joint Performance Review Committee shall meet at least one (1) time every two (2) months in order to conduct the study, but may meet more often at the call of the chairs.

(c) The purpose of the study is to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the mental health resources and care currently available in the state and to recommend legislation to the General Assembly regarding best practices and improvements within the area of mental health care for consideration during the 2021 Regular Session.

(d) In order to achieve this purpose, the Joint Performance Review Committee shall study the following issues:

(1) Access to and availability of mental health care within the



state;

(2) Existing mental healthcare facilities in the state;

(3) Medicaid programs regarding behavioral health and other medical reimbursements for mental healthcare providers and facilities;

(4) Best practices for provision of mental health services;

(5) Mental health programs in other states; and

(6) Other matters related to mental health services.

(e) On or before December 1, 2020, the Joint Performance Review Committee shall file with the Legislative Council a final written report of its activities, findings, and recommendations, and the study shall be complete upon that submission.