

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1949

5 By: Representatives Vaught, Gazaway, M. Gray
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For An Act To Be Entitled

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

11 TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE STUDY
12 ON MENTAL HEALTH.
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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19 SECTION 1. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. Arkansas Legislative
20 Study on Mental Health – Creation – Duties.

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

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

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

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

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

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



1 state;

2 (2) Existing mental healthcare facilities in the state;

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

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

6 (5) Mental health programs in other states; and

7 (6) Other matters related to mental health services.

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

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