

## HB493 ENROLLED



1 HB493  
2 QNCW215-2  
3 By Representative Ellis  
4 RFD: Children and Senior Advocacy  
5 First Read: 01-Apr-25



## HB493 Enrolled

Enrolled, An Act,

Relating to children's advocacy centers; to amend Section 26-16-71, Code of Alabama 1975; to further provide for the certification of child advocacy centers as full member centers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 26-16-71, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§26-16-71

(a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms~~shall~~ have the following meanings:

(1) ASSOCIATE MEMBER CENTER. A child advocacy center that is working towards full membership status and has been approved by the network for associate membership status.

(2) BOARD OF DIRECTORS. The Board of Directors of the Alabama Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, Incorporated.

(3) FULL MEMBER CENTER. A child advocacy center that ~~meets the standards of Section 26-16-70, and~~ is certified by the network as a full member pursuant to subsection (b).

~~(3)~~ (4) NETWORK. The Alabama Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, Incorporated.

(5) PILOT PROJECT. A program initiated by the ~~board of directors of the network~~ Board of Directors to serve children in underserved areas of the state.

(b) The network may certify a child advocacy center as a full member center if the child advocacy center meets the standards of Section 26-16-70 and any other standards approved



## HB493 Enrolled

by the Board of Directors to ensure compliance with national best practices.

(c) A full member center shall be eligible to receive funds that are appropriated from the State of Alabama to the Alabama Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, Incorporated. Beginning with the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, 10 percent of the total annual appropriation to the network shall be allocated for use by the network in funding associate member centers, pilot projects, and administrative and training projects of the network. Beginning with the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, 90 percent of the total annual appropriation to the network shall be allocated as follows:

(1) Each full member center shall receive a base amount allocation as follows:

a. A base amount sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) shall be allocated and distributed to each full member center during the first fiscal year following certification, provided sufficient additional funds are appropriated to the network for each new full member center added to the network.

b. A base amount sum of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) shall be allocated and distributed to each full member center during the second fiscal year following certification, provided sufficient additional funds are appropriated to the network for each new full member center added to the network.

c. A base amount sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) shall be allocated and distributed to each full



## HB493 Enrolled

member center during the third and subsequent years following certification, provided sufficient additional funds are appropriated to the network for each new full member center added to the network.

(2) Each associate member center shall receive a base amount allocation of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) during the first and second fiscal years following approval by the network for associate membership status. If the associate member is not certified as a full member at the conclusion of the second fiscal year, the board of directors may on an annual basis authorize continued payment as an associate member center.

(3) Any appropriated funds remaining after the allocations in subdivisions (1) and (2) have been satisfied shall be allocated proportionately by the network to each full member center based upon the number of ~~forensic interviews/~~ interviews and forensic evaluations conducted and the number of children receiving counseling at each full member center during the preceding fiscal year as compared to the total number of ~~forensic interviews/~~ interviews and forensic evaluations conducted and the number of children receiving counseling at full member centers throughout the state during the same preceding fiscal year. ~~Forensic interview/~~ interview, forensic evaluation, and counseling data used for determining proportional allocation amounts shall be obtained from the annual services report summary compiled by the ~~Alabama Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, Incorporated~~ network.

(d) ~~(e)~~ If the annual amount of state appropriated funds



## HB493 Enrolled

85 is less than the sum of the total allocations provided in  
86 subdivisions ~~(1) and (2) of subsection (b)~~ (c) (1) and (c) (2), a  
87 lesser base amount that is equivalent to each full member and  
88 associate member center's pro rata share of the total  
89 appropriation, shall be allocated and distributed to each  
90 center.

91 (e) ~~(d)~~ If a full member center fails to meet the  
92 standards established in ~~Section 26-16-70~~ subsection (b) for a  
93 period of one year or longer, or otherwise ceases to be  
94 certified or exist, the base amount allocation designated for  
95 that center shall be calculated by the network as part of the  
96 total annual appropriation amount and allocated and  
97 distributed to the remaining centers according to this  
98 section. Any full member center which fails to meet the  
99 standards established in ~~Section 26-16-70~~ subsection (b) for a  
100 period of one year or longer, or otherwise ceases to be  
101 certified or exist, shall not be eligible to receive state  
102 funding until recertified by the network."

103 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October  
104 1, 2025.



## HB493 Enrolled

105  
106  
107  
108  
109  
110  
111  
112  
113  
114  
115  
116  
117  
118  
119  
120  
121  
122  
123  
124  
125  
126  
127  
128  
129  
130  
131  
132  
133  
134  
135  
136  
137

---

Speaker of the House of Representatives

---

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and  
was passed by the House 10-Apr-25.

John Treadwell  
Clerk

Senate

---

**07-May-25**

---

Passed