

HB493 INTRODUCED



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



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SYNOPSIS:

Existing law provides that a child advocacy center may be certified as a full member center by the Alabama Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, Incorporated, if the child advocacy center meets certain statutory standards.

This bill would provide that a child advocacy center may be certified as a full member center by the network if, in addition to statutory standards, the child advocacy center meets any additional standards approved by the Board of Directors of the network.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
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



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

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

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

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

39 ~~(3)~~ (4) NETWORK. The Alabama Network of Children's
40 Advocacy Centers, Incorporated.

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

44 (b) The network may certify a child advocacy center as
45 a full member center if the child advocacy center meets the
46 standards of Section 26-16-70 and any other standards approved
47 by the Board of Directors to ensure compliance with national
48 best practices.

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



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57 year ending September 30, 2002, 90 percent of the total annual
58 appropriation to the network shall be allocated as follows:

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

61 a. A base amount sum of fifty thousand dollars
62 (\$50,000) shall be allocated and distributed to each full
63 member center during the first fiscal year following
64 certification, provided sufficient additional funds are
65 appropriated to the network for each new full member center
66 added to the network.

67 b. A base amount sum of seventy-five thousand dollars
68 (\$75,000) shall be allocated and distributed to each full
69 member center during the second fiscal year following
70 certification, provided sufficient additional funds are
71 appropriated to the network for each new full member center
72 added to the network.

73 c. A base amount sum of one hundred thousand dollars
74 (\$100,000) shall be allocated and distributed to each full
75 member center during the third and subsequent years following
76 certification, provided sufficient additional funds are
77 appropriated to the network for each new full member center
78 added to the network.

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



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85 annual basis authorize continued payment as an associate
86 member center.

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

102 (d) ~~(e)~~ If the annual amount of state appropriated funds
103 is less than the sum of the total allocations provided in
104 subdivisions ~~(1) and (2) of subsection (b)~~ (c) (1) and (c) (2), a
105 lesser base amount that is equivalent to each full member and
106 associate member center's pro rata share of the total
107 appropriation, shall be allocated and distributed to each
108 center.

109 (e) ~~(d)~~ If a full member center fails to meet the
110 standards established in ~~Section 26-16-70~~ subsection (b) for a
111 period of one year or longer, or otherwise ceases to be
112 certified or exist, the base amount allocation designated for



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113 that center shall be calculated by the network as part of the
114 total annual appropriation amount and allocated and
115 distributed to the remaining centers according to this
116 section. Any full member center which fails to meet the
117 standards established in ~~Section 26-16-70~~ subsection (b) for a
118 period of one year or longer, or otherwise ceases to be
119 certified or exist, shall not be eligible to receive state
120 funding until recertified by the network."

121 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
122 1, 2025.