



TREASURER OF STATE

April 8, 2015

For Immediate Release

Lt. Governor Griffin, Treasurer of State Milligan and Representative Mayberry Applaud Signing of HB 1239- ABLE Act

Media Contact: Grant Wallace
Phone: 501-682-5734 (o)/ 501-580-3869 (m)
Email: grant.wallace@artreasury.gov

Photo Attached

Little Rock, AR- Governor Asa Hutchinson signed into law the Achieving A Better Life Experience Program Act (House Bill 1239) by Representative Julie Mayberry (R-Hensley) which implemented United States Public Law Number 113-295 (the Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2014) Division B: Achieving A Better Life Act. The federal law was passed in December 2014 and supported by the entire Arkansas Congressional Delegation.

Representative Julie Mayberry stated, "This legislation will empower individuals with disabilities to be more self-sufficient. Instead of giving a person a fish to feed them for a day, we are teaching them how to fish to feed themselves for a lifetime. This will open opportunities to save money for future essential needs like healthcare, education, transportation and employment training and support. This is a huge step towards independence."

The Achieving A Better Life Experience Program (ABLE) will allow for families with individuals with disabilities to set up a 529 savings account to be used for eligible expenses to care for the individual and those funds would be exempt from state and federal taxes. Those eligible expenses include education, transportation, assistive technology, healthcare, wellness expenses and employment training and support.

Lieutenant Governor Tim Griffin stated, "We must work to increase understanding of and support for Arkansans living with disabilities. I supported the [Achieving A Better Life Experience \(ABLE\) Act of 2014](#) in Congress and support this legislation which ensures that our state has tax-free savings accounts available to assist those living with disabilities. I applaud Rep. Julie Mayberry (R-Hensley) for her leadership on this legislation."

HB 1239 established a committee to administer this program in the state. The committee is comprised of the Treasurer of State, Director of the Department of Human Services and the Director of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services.

This legislation has been introduced in 26 other states this year and has been passed in 4 states. There was bipartisan support for this legislation in the Arkansas General Assembly. It was lead in the Senate by Senator Jeremy Hutchinson (R-Benton) and included 24 cosponsors in both the House and Senate.

Treasurer of State Dennis Milligan stated, "I am grateful to Representative Mayberry for her work and working with my staff on this legislation. I look forward to working with the leaders in the community, and the other members of the Committee to get this program up and running in the state. I am excited to provide individuals with disabilities a hand up to a better life rather than another government hand out."

The Committee will now await the rules and regulations currently being promulgated by the Internal Revenue Service. The legislation can be found at <http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2015/2015R/Pages/BillInformation.aspx?measureno=hb1239>

##



[Download Photo Here](#)