

Act 471 of the 1989 Regular Session.

Act 471

HB1508

By: Representatives Day, Tullis, Pollan, Brown,
Blair, and Lendall

"AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT IN ARKANSAS OF AN
UNINSURED CHILDRENS PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. This Program shall be known and may be cited as the
"Uninsured Children's Program" Act.

SECTION 2. PURPOSE. The purpose and intent of this program is to
provide access to appropriate primary health care services for eligible
children in Arkansas.

SECTION 3. The Department of Human Services shall be responsible for
administering the Uninsured Children's Program and the Department of Human
Services shall administer and promulgate regulations for the Uninsured
Children's Program in a manner that: (1) Establishes a specific definition of
the population who shall be eligible for services provided or reimbursed
through this program with the specific guideline that the program is limited
to children who have gross family income equal to or less than 185 percent of
the Federal poverty guideline who are not covered by Medicaid or any other
health insurance program for the services offered by this program. The
Department of Human Services shall have discretion to set age limits for
participation in this program. (2) Provides for the automatic assignment of
medical payments due as set out in Act 463 of 1987 as a condition of
eligibility for benefits under the Uninsured Children's Program.

SECTION 4. COVERED SERVICES AND PROVIDERS. Covered and noncovered
services under the Uninsured Children's Program shall be in accordance with
regulations established by the Department of Human Services. Providers of
covered services shall be the same as those providers enrolled as Medicaid
providers and reimbursement shall be at the same rate and under the same
conditions established for Medicaid providers.

SECTION 5. FUNDING. (a) Funding for the Uninsured Children's Program
shall be derived from funds as may be provided by the General Assembly and any
federal matching funds generated by the program. (b) It is further the intent
of this bill that funds appropriated by the General Assembly for the purpose
of funding the Uninsured Children's Program be used where appropriate and
practical to match federal funding sources to enhance the total available
funding to the operation of the Uninsured Children's Program. (c) The
uninsured Children's Program shall operate only if funds are available for its
operation.

SECTION 6. ENROLLMENT FEES. The Department of Human Services may at
its discretion establish an annual enrollment fee for participation in the
Uninsured Children's Program. The enrollment fee shall be established through
promulgated regulations.

SECTION 7. DISPOSITION OF FUNDS. (a) All funds derived from fees

collected under Section 6 are declared to be special revenues and shall be deposited in the State Treasury, there to be credited to the Department of Human Services Uninsured Children's Fund to be used for administration of the Uninsured Children's Program. (b) Subject to such rules and regulations as may be implemented by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, the disbursing Officer for the Department of Human Services is authorized to transfer all unexpended funds relative to the fees collected in Section 6 of this Act as certified by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, to be carried forward and made available for expenditure for the same purpose for any following fiscal year.

SECTION 8. The Uninsured Children's Program shall begin operation at the beginning of the State fiscal year beginning one year after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 9. All provisions of this Act of a general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

APPROVED: March 10, 1989
