

1 **State of Arkansas**
2 **78th General Assembly**
3 **Regular Session, 1991**
4 **By: Senator Bradford**

A Bill ACT 270 OF 1991

SENATE BILL 150

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT RELATING TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF
9 ATROPINE/PRALIDOXIME IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS TO PERSONS
10 WITH SEVERE ADVERSE REACTIONS TO NERVE AGENTS; AND FOR
11 OTHER PURPOSES."

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

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15 SECTION 1. Title. This act shall be known and cited as the "Nerve
16 Agents Emergency Treatment Act."

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18 SECTION 2. Purpose. It is the purpose of this act to provide a means
19 of authorizing certain individuals to administer treatment to those persons
20 who have severe adverse reactions to nerve agents when a physician is not
21 immediately available.

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23 SECTION 3. Definition. "Physician," as used in this act, unless the
24 context otherwise requires, means a natural person licensed to practice
25 medicine in the State of Arkansas pursuant to the Arkansas Medical Practices
26 Act, Arkansas Code Annotated 7-93-201, et seq.

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28 SECTION 4. Eligibility for Certificate. Persons eligible to receive a
29 certificate pursuant to this act shall meet the following requirements:

- 30 (1) be eighteen (18) years of age or older;
- 31 (2) have, or reasonably expect to have, responsibility for at least one
32 (1) other person as a result of one's relationship, or one's occupational or
33 volunteer status, for example, E.M.T., fire department personnel, P.H. nurses,
34 etc.;
- 35 (3) have been properly trained by a qualified instructor who has been
36 certified by a physician licensed under the Arkansas Medical Practices Act,

1 Arkansas Code Annotated 7-93-201, et seq. The curriculum shall minimally
2 include recognition of the symptoms of systemic reactions to nerve agents and
3 the proper administration of an injection of atropine/pralidoxime, or other
4 drugs as approved by the State Health Officer for the treatment of symptoms
5 caused by exposure to nerve agents.

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7 SECTION 5. Authority of Certificate Holder.

8 (a) A certificate issued pursuant to this act shall authorize the holder
9 thereof to receive upon presentation of the certificate, from any physician, a
10 prescription for pre-measured doses of atropine/pralidoxime, or other drugs as
11 approved by the State Health Officer for the treatment of symptoms caused by
12 exposure to nerve agents, and the necessary paraphernalia for administration.

13 (b) The certificate shall also authorize the holder thereof to possess
14 and administer, in an emergency situation when a physician is not immediately
15 available, the prescribed atropine/pralidoxime, or other drugs as approved by
16 the State Health Officer for the treatment of symptoms caused by exposure to
17 nerve agents, to persons suffering a severe adverse reaction to nerve agents.

18 (c) The holder is authorized to administer atropine/pralidoxime, or
19 other drugs as approved by the State Health Officer for the treatment of
20 symptoms caused by exposure to nerve agents.

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22 SECTION 6. Immunity. No cause of action shall arise against a
23 certificate holder pursuant to this act or against the issuing physician for
24 any act or omission when acting in good faith pursuant to the authority
25 granted by this act, except where the conduct amounts to gross negligence.

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27 SECTION 7. Administration of Act.

28 (a) The Department of Health is directed to prepare the appropriate
29 certificate form to be available to physicians upon request to accomplish the
30 purposes of this act.

31 (b) A copy of all certificates issued pursuant to this subchapter shall
32 be forwarded by the issuing physician to the Department of Health to be
33 maintained on file and subject to public inspection.

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35 SECTION 8. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature

1 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
2 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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4 SECTION 9. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
5 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
6 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
7 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
8 act are declared to be severable.

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10 SECTION 10. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
11 hereby repealed.

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13 SECTION 11. EMERGENCY. It is hereby found and determined by the
14 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that it is necessary to provide for
15 the emergency treatment of those persons who have a severe adverse reaction to
16 nerve agents since stockpiles of nerve agents do exist within the state of
17 Arkansas. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this act
18 being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health,
19 and safety, shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and
20 approval.

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22 APPROVED: 2-28-91

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