

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2023-028

2 State of Arkansas
3 94th General Assembly
4 Regular Session, 2023

As Engrossed: H3/27/23

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1314

5
6 By: Representative Eubanks

7 Filed with: House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor
8 pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

9 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

10 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE ARKANSAS MEDICAID PROGRAM TO
11 CLASSIFY *DOCTORS OF OPTOMETRY AS PHYSICIANS WHICH IS*
12 *THE SAME AS MEDICARE AND INSURANCE CARRIERS FOR*
13 *REIMBURSEMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.*

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16 **Subtitle**

17 *TO REQUIRE THE ARKANSAS MEDICAID PROGRAM*
18 *TO CLASSIFY DOCTORS OF OPTOMETRY AS*
19 *PHYSICIANS WHICH IS THE SAME AS MEDICARE*
20 *AND INSURANCE CARRIERS FOR REIMBURSEMENT.*

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

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25 *SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings and intent.*

26 *(a) The General Assembly finds that:*

27 *(1) Medicare classifies a doctor of optometry as a physician*
28 *with respect to all services that the optometrist is authorized to perform*
29 *under state law or rule;*

30 *(2) Medicare has classified doctors of optometry as physicians*
31 *since 1986;*

32 *(3) Most private insurers classify doctors of optometry as*
33 *physicians; and*

34 *(4) However, doctors of optometry are not currently classified*
35 *under the Arkansas Medicaid Program as a physician and are therefore not*

1 reimbursed by the Arkansas Medicaid Program for all services that doctors of
2 optometry are currently authorized to provide under state law.

3 (b) It is the intent of the General Assembly to classify doctors of
4 optometry as a physician in the Arkansas Medicaid Program and authorize a
5 doctor of optometry to be reimbursed by the Arkansas Medicaid Program for all
6 services that he or she is currently authorized to provide by state law.

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8 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 77, Subchapter 1, is amended
9 to add an additional section to read as follows:

10 20-77-148. Classification of optometric physicians.

11 (a) The Arkansas Medicaid Program shall classify doctors of optometry
12 as physicians with respect to all services that doctors of optometry are
13 authorized to perform under state law.

14 (b) The Arkansas Medicaid Program shall classify optometric physicians
15 under the physician fee schedule.

16 (c) The Department of Human Services shall apply for any federal
17 waiver, Medicaid state plan amendment, or other authorization necessary to
18 implement this section.

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20 /s/Eubanks

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23 Referred requested by the Arkansas House of Representatives

24 Prepared by: JMB/SJA
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