

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2011-187

REQUESTING THAT THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO REFER TO THE APPROPRIATE INTERIM COMMITTEE A STUDY OF THE COSTS TO CONSUMERS AND INSURANCE COMPANIES OF PRESENTLY MANDATED HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE AND THE POTENTIAL COSTS OF RETAINING STATE MANDATED COVERAGE UNDER THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.

WHEREAS, Arkansas law mandates that numerous specific benefits be included in health insurance policies; and

WHEREAS, Arkansas mandates include without limitation: coverage for newborn infants, including tests for hypothyroidism, phenylketonuria, galactosemia, sickle-cell anemia, and all other disorders of metabolism, for routine nursery care and pediatric charges for well newborn children, for mothers of newborns, for mastectomies, for obstetrical and gynecological services, for continuity of care, for exceptions to prescription drug formularies, for orthotic devices, orthotic services, prosthetic devices, and prosthetic services, for necessary care and treatment of loss or impairment of speech or hearing, for any child during the process of adoption, for the necessary care and treatment of alcohol and other drug dependency, and for autism spectrum disorders; and

WHEREAS, the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148) at Sec. 1311(d)(3)(B) (codified at 42 U.S.C. § 13031) specifies that if a state retains health insurance mandates beyond those required for the basic coverage in qualified health plans, the state must assume the cost of those retained mandates; and

1 WHEREAS, in order for legislators to protect both consumers and
2 providers of health insurance coverage, a clear understanding of the present
3 and future costs of mandated health insurance benefits is essential,
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6 NOW THEREFORE,
7 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH
8 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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10 THAT the Arkansas Legislative Council of the Eighty-Eighth Arkansas
11 General Assembly refer to the appropriate interim committee a study of the
12 costs to consumers and insurance companies of presently mandated health
13 insurance coverage and the potential costs of retaining state mandated
14 coverage under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.
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16 Respectfully submitted,
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20 Representative David Meeks
21 District 46
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26 By: MGF/LNS
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