

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

# A Bill

**SENATE BILL**

## **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

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

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8 SECTION 5. Authority of Certificate Holder.

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

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

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

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

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28 SECTION 7. Administration of Act.

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

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

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1           SECTION 8. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature  
2 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code  
3 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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

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

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

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