

1 **State of Arkansas**  
2 **79th General Assembly**  
3 **Regular Session, 1993**  
4 **By: Senator Walters**

# A Bill

**SENATE BILL 490**

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO *ENABLE THE* ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO  
9 DEVELOP A PROGRAM THAT IMPROVES MEDICAID SERVICES BY  
10 STRENGTHENING THE DELIVERY OF RURAL MEDICAL SERVICES; AND  
11 FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

## Subtitle

14 "TO *ENABLE THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH* TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM  
15 THAT IMPROVES MEDICAID SERVICES."

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

19 SECTION 1. The General Assembly finds that the delivery of *medical*  
20 services is weakest in rural areas and that enhancement of rural medical  
21 services would improve delivery of Medicaid services; it is therefore declared  
22 to be the intent of the legislature to *enable the Arkansas Department of*  
23 *Health* to develop programs which strengthen the delivery of rural medical  
24 services.

26 SECTION 2. (a) *The Arkansas Department of Health may develop a program*  
27 *to provide primary health care services to Medicaid recipients.*

28 (b) *The Arkansas Department of Health shall develop cooperative*  
29 *agreements with county health units, Area Health Education Centers, community*  
30 *health centers, local physicians and other health care providers to assure the*  
31 *availability of primary health care services for Medicaid patients.*

32 (c) *The Arkansas Department of Health is authorized to employ primary*  
33 *care physicians, primary care registered nurse practitioners, and other health*  
34 *care professionals to provide medical care in collaboration with existing*  
35 *health care providers.*

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2 SECTION 3. (a) Primary health care *service sites* shall provide the  
3 following services:

4 (1) basic health services, including but not limited to patient  
5 histories and physicals, preventive health care, treatment of acute episodes  
6 of illness and chronic illness, and immunizations;

7 (2) *routine laboratory and diagnostic radiologic services; and*

8 (3) *prenatal care and normal obstetrics.*

9 (b) *Pharmaceutical preparations to be dispensed at primary health care*  
10 *service sites shall be selected through a bid process.*

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12 SECTION 4. A primary health care *service site* shall provide or have  
13 written contracts assuring access to the following:

14 (1) *medical specialists' services;*

15 (2) *hospital services;*

16 (3) *ambulance services;*

17 (4) *home health services;*

18 (5) *pharmacy services;*

19 (6) *emergency services;*

20 (7) *rehabilitative and therapeutic services; and*

21 (8) *non-routine laboratory, radiologic and other diagnostic services.*

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23 SECTION 5. The following staffing plan shall apply to primary health  
24 care *service sites*:

25 (1) (A) At least one (1) registered nurse practitioner *at each primary*  
26 *health care services site;*

27 (B) Registered Nurse Practitioners shall be utilized to the  
28 maximum extent possible to expand the availability of health care services.  
29 Registered Nurse Practitioners may treat patients within the limits of their  
30 statutory scope of practice as prescribed in Arkansas Code § 17-86-102.

31 (2) *At least one (1) physician who has admitting privileges at a local*  
32 *hospital and who shall serve as medical director;*

33 (3) *Other primary care physicians, as available, to include*  
34 *pediatricians, family practitioners, general internists, obstetricians and*  
35 *gynecologists;*

1           (4) Ancillary support personnel as necessary to provide the basic  
2 services of the primary health care service site.

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5           SECTION 6. (a) The Arkansas Department of Health shall promulgate  
6 regulations as necessary to implement this act.

7           (b) All proposed regulations shall be reviewed by directors of primary  
8 health care service sites at least thirty (30) days prior to adoption.

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10          SECTION 7. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature  
11 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code  
12 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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

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20          SECTION 9. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are  
21 hereby repealed.

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*/s/Senator Walters*

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***As Engrossed: 3/8/93***

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