

State of Arkansas  
87th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2009

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 967

By: Senator Steele  
By: Representative Rainey

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ENSURE FULL PARTICIPATION FOR ARKANSAS  
IN THE FEDERAL SICKLE CELL DISEASE EDUCATION AND  
TREATMENT INITIATIVE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

TO ENSURE FULL PARTICIPATION FOR  
ARKANSAS IN THE FEDERAL SICKLE CELL  
DISEASE EDUCATION AND TREATMENT  
INITIATIVE.

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

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

20-77-125. Sickle Cell Disease education and treatment waiver.

(a) The Department of Human Services shall seek a Medicaid waiver from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to receive federal matching funds for costs incurred for providing:

(1) Services to identify and educate individuals who have Sickle Cell Disease or who are carriers of the sickle cell gene, including education regarding how to identify such individuals;

(2) Education regarding the risks of stroke and other complications, as well as the prevention of stroke and other complications in individuals who have Sickle Cell Disease;

(3) Primary and secondary preventative medical strategies, including prophylaxes, and treatment and services for individuals who have



1 Sickle Cell Disease;

2 (4) Strategies, treatment, and services, including without  
3 limitation:

4 (A) Chronic blood transfusion with deferoxamine chelation  
5 to prevent stroke in individuals with Sickle Cell Disease who have been  
6 identified as being at high risk for stroke;

7 (B) Genetic counseling and testing for individuals with  
8 Sickle Cell Disease or the sickle cell trait; and

9 (C) Other treatment and services to prevent individuals who  
10 have Sickle Cell Disease and who have had a stroke from having another  
11 stroke.

12 (b) The department will seek to make grants under the waiver to  
13 federally-qualified health centers, nonprofit hospitals or clinics, and  
14 university health centers that provides primary health care.

15 (c) An entity awarded a grant under this subsection (b) of this  
16 section shall use funds made available under the grant to:

17 (1) Facilitate and coordinate the delivery of education,  
18 treatment, and continuity of care for individuals with Sickle Cell Disease  
19 under:

20 (A) The entity's collaborative agreement with a community-  
21 based Sickle Cell Disease organization or a nonprofit entity that works with  
22 individuals who have Sickle Cell Disease;

23 (B) A Sickle Cell Disease newborn screening program under  
24 the state Medicaid plan; and

25 (C) A maternal and child health program under the state  
26 Medicaid plan;

27 (2) Train nursing and other health staff who specialize in  
28 pediatrics, obstetrics, internal medicine, or family practice to provide  
29 health care and genetic counseling for individuals with the sickle cell  
30 trait;

31 (3) Enter into a partnership with adult or pediatric  
32 hematologists in the region and other regional experts in Sickle Cell Disease  
33 at tertiary and academic health centers and state and county health offices;  
34 and

35 (4) Identify and secure resources for ensuring reimbursement  
36 under the Medicaid program, State Children's Health Insurance program, and

1 other health programs for the prevention and treatment of Sickle Cell  
2 Disease, including the genetic testing of parents or other appropriate  
3 relatives of children with Sickle Cell Disease and of adults with Sickle Cell  
4 Disease.

5 (b) The Partners for Inclusive Communities program of the University  
6 of Arkansas for Medical Sciences shall serve as the state advocate for a  
7 comprehensive approach to Sickle Cell Disease education and treatment.