

1 State of Arkansas  
2 90th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2015  
4

*As Engrossed: S3/17/15*

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 980

5 By: Senator Hester  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO REGULATE THE PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES OF  
9 THE STATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOL LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE  
10 BOARD; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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### Subtitle

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13 TO REGULATE THE PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES  
14 OF THE STATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOL LIFE AND  
15 HEALTH INSURANCE BOARD.  
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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21 *SECTION 1. Uncodified Acts 2013 (2nd Ex. Sess.), Nos. 3 and 6, § 10,*  
22 *as amended, is amended to read as follows:*

23 *SECTION 3. DO NOT CODIFY. Pilot Program on coverage for morbid*  
24 *obesity diagnosis and treatment.*

25 *(a)(1)(A) A state and public school employees health benefit plan that*  
26 *is offered, issued, or renewed on or after January 1, 2012, shall offer*  
27 *coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of morbid obesity.*

28 *(B) The cost of coverage for the diagnosis and treatment*  
29 *of morbid obesity offered under subdivision (a)(1)(A) of this section shall*  
30 *not exceed:*

31 *(i) Three million dollars (\$3,000,000) annually for*  
32 *the Arkansas State Employees Health Benefit Plan; or*

33 *(ii) Three million dollars (\$3,000,000) annually for*  
34 *the Arkansas Public School Employees Health Benefit Plan.*

35 *(2) The coverage for morbid obesity offered under subdivision*  
36 *(a)(1) of this section includes without limitation coverage for bariatric*



1 *surgery including:*

- 2 (A) *Gastric bypass surgery;*
- 3 (B) *Adjustable gastric banding surgery;*
- 4 (C) *Sleeve gastrectomy surgery; and*
- 5 (D) *Duodenal switch biliopancreatic diversion.*

6 (b) *The coverage for morbid obesity diagnosis and treatment offered*  
7 *under this subchapter does not diminish or limit benefits otherwise allowable*  
8 *under a state and public school employees health benefit plan.*

9 (c) *The State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Board ~~shall~~*  
10 *may discontinue or suspend a plan option offered under subsection (a) of this*  
11 *section, if the board ~~determines and the~~ can demonstrate adjustments are*  
12 *necessary to ensure the financial soundness and overall well-being of the*  
13 *State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Program, and the State and*  
14 *Public School Life and Health Insurance Program Legislative Task Force has*  
15 *reviewed and approved the board's recommendation.*

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17 /s/Hester  
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