1	State of Arkansas As Engrossed: H3/4/19
2	92nd General Assembly A B1II
3	Regular Session, 2019HOUSE BILL 1555
4	
5	By: Representatives A. Collins, <i>Cloud, A. Davis, Eaves, D. Ferguson, Gazaway, Hawks, L. Johnson,</i>
6	Lundstrum, Magie
7	By: Senators Irvin, Bond, M. Johnson
8	For An Act To Be Entitled
9	
10	AN ACT TO INCREASE COVERAGE FOR MEDICATIONS APPROVED
11	BY THE UNITED STATES FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION FOR
12	TOBACCO CESSATION IN THE ARKANSAS MEDICAID PROGRAM;
13	AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
14	
15 16	Subtitle
17	TO INCREASE COVERAGE FOR MEDICATIONS
18	APPROVED BY THE UNITED STATES FOOD AND
19	DRUG ADMINISTRATION FOR TOBACCO CESSATION
20	IN THE ARKANSAS MEDICAID PROGRAM.
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23	BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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25	SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings and intent.
26	(a) The General Assembly finds that:
27	(1) Arkansas has the third-highest rate of adult smokers in the
28	United States;
29	(2) Arkansas has the third-highest rate of new lung cancer
30	diagnoses in the United States;
31	(3) One-third (1/3) of all cancer-related deaths are tied to the
32	use of tobacco; and
33	(4) The Arkansas Healthcare Transparency Initiative, the
34	statewide all-payer claims database, projects that the annual cost of tobacco
35	use to the Arkansas Medicaid Program to be approximately seven hundred
36	ninety-five million dollars (\$795,000,000).



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1	(b) It is the intent of this section to lower the rate of adult
2	smokers in Arkansas and to reduce costs of treatment related to tobacco use-
3	related illness by increasing coverage in the Arkansas Medicaid Program for
4	medications approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for
5	tobacco cessation.
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7	SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 77, Subchapter 1, is
8	amended to add an additional section to read as follows:
9	20-77-135. Medications approved by the United States Food and Drug
10	Administration for tobacco cessation coverage.
11	(a) The Department of Human Services shall ensure that the Arkansas
12	Medicaid Program covers for medications approved by the United States Food
13	and Drug Administration for tobacco cessation, including without limitation:
14	(1) Nicotine replacement therapy patches;
15	(2) Nicotine replacement therapy gum;
16	(3) Nicotine replacement therapy lozenges;
17	(4) Nicotine replacement therapy nasal spray;
18	(5) Nicotine replacement therapy inhalers;
19	(6) Bupropion; and
20	(7) Varenicline.
21	(b) Prior authorization shall not be required for coverage of
22	medications described in subsection (a) of this section.
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24	/s/A. Collins
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