

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

1 State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H3/9/17 S3/30/17*

2 91st General Assembly

A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2017

HOUSE BILL 2014

4

5 By: Representatives Baltz, Farrer

6 By: Senator D. Sanders

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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 *AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOL LIFE*
10 *AND HEALTH INSURANCE BOARD TO EXPLORE EMERGING*
11 *THERAPIES AND COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF TREATMENTS; AND*
12 *FOR OTHER PURPOSES.*

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Subtitle

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TO REQUIRE THE STATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOL
17 *LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE BOARD TO*
18 *EXPLORE EMERGING THERAPIES AND COST-*
19 *EFFECTIVENESS OF TREATMENT.*

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

23

24 *SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.*

25 *The General Assembly finds that:*

26 *(1) The State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Board*
27 *has a fiduciary obligation to explore cost-effective treatments for its*
28 *members;*

29 *(2) There are emerging technologies that could serve as cost-*
30 *effective alternatives to surgical procedures; and*

31 *(3) Clinical organizations are increasingly providing public*
32 *guidance on quality treatment practices.*

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34 *SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 23, Chapter 79, is amended to add an*
35 *additional subchapter to read as follows:*

36 *Subchapter 17 – Emerging Therapy Act of 2017*



1
2 23-79-1701. Title.

3 This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Emerging
4 Therapy Act of 2017".

5
6 23-79-1702. Definitions.

7 As used in this subchapter:

8 (1) "Board" means the State and Public School Life and Health
9 Insurance Board;

10 (2) "Choosing Wisely Initiative" means the initiative
11 established by the American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation that seeks
12 to advance a national dialogue on avoiding wasteful or unnecessary medical
13 tests, treatments, and procedures;

14 (3) "Emerging therapies" means therapeutic services that have
15 not historically been covered but for which new evidence may demonstrate
16 therapeutic enhancements, opportunities for cost-avoidance, or both;

17 (4) "Evidence" means peer-reviewed objective studies of emerging
18 therapies; and

19 (5) "Regenerative injection therapy" means a nonsurgical
20 orthopedic treatment performed by injecting into a joint or soft tissue a
21 substance that stimulates the growth of normal cells and tissues for the
22 purpose of strengthening or repairing a painful or injured joint or
23 connective tissue.

24 23-79-1703. State and Public School Life and Health
25 Insurance Board – Requirements.

26 (a) By the end of plan year 2017, the State and Public School Life and
27 Health Insurance Board shall explore the evidence supporting opportunities
28 for benefit modification informed by:

29 (1) The Choosing Wisely Initiative;

30 (2) Emerging therapies; and

31 (3) Therapeutic alternatives to invasive surgical procedures,
32 such as regenerative injection therapy.

33 (b) By July of 2018, the State and Public School Life and Health
34 Insurance Board shall:

35 (1) Identify and consider implementation of pilot programs that
36 include stepped therapy or center of excellence approaches, or both, for

1 which evidence demonstrates cost savings to the plan; and
2 (2) Identify opportunities to stimulate conversations between
3 patients and providers about appropriate and necessary treatment, including
4 treatment recommendations identified by the Choosing Wisely Initiative.

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6 /s/Baltz
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