

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2019-046

1 State of Arkansas  
2 92nd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2019

**A Bill**

HOUSE BILL 1918

4 By: Representatives K. Ferguson, F. Allen, M. Gray

5  
6 Filed with: House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor  
7 pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

**For An Act To Be Entitled**

8 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH CANCER PATIENT NAVIGATION TO  
9 IMPROVE THE CARE OF CANCER PATIENTS IN THIS STATE;  
10 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

**Subtitle**

11 TO ESTABLISH CANCER PATIENT NAVIGATION TO  
12 IMPROVE THE CARE OF CANCER PATIENTS IN  
13 THIS STATE.

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

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23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 15, Subchapter 2, is  
24 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

25 20-15-206. Cancer patient navigation.

26 (a) As used in this section:

27 (1) "Health disparity population" means a population that has  
28 significant disparity in the rate of cancer incidence, prevalence, morbidity,  
29 or survival rates as compared to the general population; and

30 (2) "Patient navigation" means the facilitating the care of  
31 patients through:

32 (A) Acting as contacts for individuals who are found to  
33 have a symptom, abnormal finding, or diagnosis of cancer following a  
34 screening or early detection service, including without limitation the  
35 assistance in the coordination of healthcare services and healthcare provider  
36 referrals;

1                   (B) Facilitating the involvement of community  
 2 organizations in assisting individuals who are at risk for or who have cancer  
 3 by creating partnerships with patient advocacy groups, charities, healthcare  
 4 centers, community hospice centers, healthcare providers, or other  
 5 organizations in the targeted community;

6                   (C) Notifying individuals of clinical trials and if  
 7 requested, facilitating enrollment in the clinical trials;

8                   (D) Anticipating, identifying, and helping patients  
 9 overcome barriers within the healthcare system to ensure prompt diagnostic  
 10 and treatment resolution of an abnormal finding of cancer;

11                   (E) Coordinating with a relevant health insurance  
 12 ombudsman program to provide information to individuals who are at risk for  
 13 or who have cancer about health coverage, including without limitation  
 14 private insurance, healthcare savings accounts, the Arkansas Medicaid  
 15 Program, and other publicly funded programs; and

16                   (F) Conducting ongoing outreach to health disparity  
 17 populations.

18           (b) The Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute at the University of  
 19 Arkansas for Medical Sciences may establish a comprehensive cancer patient  
 20 navigation program to:

21                   (1) Guide patients who are diagnosed with cancer through the  
 22 healthcare system;

23                   (2) Help patients who are diagnosed with cancer overcome  
 24 physical, emotional, social, and financial barriers to receiving timely and  
 25 efficient cancer treatment; and

26                   (3) Improve care of patients who are diagnosed with cancer in  
 27 this state.

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 30 Referred requested by the Arkansas House of Representatives

31 Prepared by: JMB/VJF

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