

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2019-158

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3 REQUESTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND
4 LABOR STUDY MEDICAL PROFESSION SCOPE OF PRACTICE.

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6 WHEREAS, detailed and accurate information concerning the current state
7 of healthcare profession scope of practice in the State of Arkansas is
8 difficult to find; and

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10 WHEREAS, as detailed and accurate information concerning the current
11 state of healthcare profession scope of practice in the State of Arkansas is
12 difficult to find, the General Assembly has difficulty making informed
13 decisions about scope of practice legislation and knowing what legislation
14 would improve the quality of and access to health care; and

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16 WHEREAS, in recent months, the need to improve quality of and access to
17 health care in the State of Arkansas has become clear; and

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19 WHEREAS, the General Assembly has not undertaken research to determine
20 accurate information concerning healthcare profession scope of practice in
21 the State of Arkansas or what changes would improve the quality of or access
22 to health care; and

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24 WHEREAS, the General Assembly should have more information about
25 healthcare profession scope of practice to protect the health of the citizens
26 of Arkansas,

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28 NOW THEREFORE,

29 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR
30 OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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32 THAT the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor study
33 healthcare profession scope of practice, including without limitation an
34 analysis and review of:

- 35 (1) The healthcare needs in the state;
36 (2) The current healthcare profession scope of practice;

1 (3) Best practices for health care delivery across the nation;

2 (4) The medical procedures and practices allowed under the
3 Governor's declaration of a disaster emergency under the Arkansas Emergency
4 Services Act of 1973, § 12-75-101 et seq., regarding the coronavirus disease
5 2019 (COVID-19) to prevent the spread of an epidemic or contagious disease
6 and an analysis of the long-term benefits of continuing those practices;

7 (5) All authorizations provided under federal law relating to
8 healthcare profession scope of practice, including without limitation a
9 comparison of Arkansas laws and federal laws that are either restrictive or
10 permissive;

11 (6) Rates of reimbursement nationally, including without
12 limitation Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement rates and how those compare
13 with rates of reimbursement to healthcare professionals in Arkansas;

14 (7) The graduation rates of healthcare professionals from
15 Arkansas institutions of higher education and their subsequent rates of
16 residence for practice in those healthcare professions;

17 (8) Any healthcare scope of practice limitations in Arkansas
18 that may be creating barriers to healthcare professionals staying in Arkansas
19 or moving to Arkansas as compared to other states;

20 (9) Issues with accessibility to health care and to healthcare
21 professionals in areas of the state that are a result of limitations on
22 medical profession scope of practice, including a comparison with
23 accessibility issues that exist in other states; and

24 (10) The need for healthcare professionals in the state as
25 compared to the availability of healthcare professionals from Arkansas
26 institutions of higher education that provide medical profession training,
27 including without limitation an examination of rates of graduation both
28 currently and as projected.

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30 Respectfully submitted,

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34 Senator Kim Hammer

35 District 33

36 Prepared by: JMB/JMB