

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2011-187

2
3 REQUESTING THAT THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE EIGHTY-
4 EIGHTH ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO REFER TO THE APPROPRIATE
5 INTERIM COMMITTEE A STUDY OF THE COSTS TO CONSUMERS AND INSURANCE
6 COMPANIES OF PRESENTLY MANDATED HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE AND THE
7 POTENTIAL COSTS OF RETAINING STATE MANDATED COVERAGE UNDER THE
8 PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.
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12 WHEREAS, Arkansas law mandates that numerous specific benefits be
13 included in health insurance policies; and
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16 WHEREAS, Arkansas mandates include without limitation: coverage for
17 newborn infants, including tests for hypothyroidism, phenylketonuria,
18 galactosemia, sickle-cell anemia, and all other disorders of metabolism, for
19 routine nursery care and pediatric charges for well newborn children, for
20 mothers of newborns, for mastectomies, for obstetrical and gynecological
21 services, for continuity of care, for exceptions to prescription drug
22 formularies, for orthotic devices, orthotic services, prosthetic devices, and
23 prosthetic services, for necessary care and treatment of loss or impairment
24 of speech or hearing, for any child during the process of adoption, for the
25 necessary care and treatment of alcohol and other drug dependency, and for
26 autism spectrum disorders; and
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29 WHEREAS, the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act
30 (Public Law 111-148) at Sec. 1311(d)(3)(B) (codified at 42 U.S.C. § 13031)
31 specifies that if a state retains health insurance mandates beyond those
32 required for the basic coverage in qualified health plans, the state must
33 assume the cost of those retained mandates; and
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1 WHEREAS, in order for legislators to protect both consumers and
2 providers of health insurance coverage, a clear understanding of the present
3 and future costs of mandated health insurance benefits is essential,
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6 NOW THEREFORE,
7 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH
8 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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10 THAT the Arkansas Legislative Council of the Eighty-Eighth Arkansas
11 General Assembly refer to the appropriate interim committee a study of the
12 costs to consumers and insurance companies of presently mandated health
13 insurance coverage and the potential costs of retaining state mandated
14 coverage under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.
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16 Respectfully submitted,
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20 Representative David Meeks
21 District 46
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26 By: MGF/LNS
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