

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

A Bill

SENATE BILL 348

By: Senator C. Penzo
By: Representative Pilkington

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE ANNUAL CAP FOR DIAGNOSTIC
LABORATORY SERVICES WITHIN THE ARKANSAS MEDICAID
PROGRAM; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE ANNUAL CAP FOR DIAGNOSTIC
LABORATORY SERVICES WITHIN THE ARKANSAS
MEDICAID PROGRAM; AND TO DECLARE AN
EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 20-77-147(b), concerning reimbursement for
diagnostic laboratory services is amended to read as follows:

(b) The program shall set the annual cap for:

(1) Diagnostic laboratory services, not including radiology
services, of at least:

(A) Five ~~five~~ hundred dollars (\$500); or

(B) One thousand eight hundred dollars (\$1,800) if the
beneficiary is diagnosed with chronic pain or is being treated for pain
management; and

(2) Radiology services of at least five hundred dollars (\$500).

SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. Initial rules.

(a) The Department of Human Services shall promulgate rules necessary
to implement this act.



1 **(b) When adopting the initial rules to implement this act, the final**
2 **rules shall be filed with the Secretary of State for adoption under § 25-15-**
3 **204(f):**

4 **(1) On or before January 1, 2026; or**

5 **(2) If approval under § 10-3-309 has not occurred by January 1,**
6 **2026, as soon as practicable after approval under § 10-3-309.**

7 **(c) The department shall file the proposed rules with the Legislative**
8 **Council under § 10-3-309(c) sufficiently in advance of January 1, 2026, so**
9 **that the Legislative Council may consider the rules for approval before**
10 **January 1, 2026.**

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12 **SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the**
13 **General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that there is an urgent need to**
14 **improve efficiency in diagnostic laboratory services within the Arkansas**
15 **Medicaid Program; that beneficiaries of the Arkansas Medicaid Program are**
16 **currently not being monitored adequately due to the low annual reimbursement**
17 **cap on diagnostic laboratory services; that inadequate monitoring due to the**
18 **low annual reimbursement cap on diagnostic laboratory services contributes to**
19 **the opioid epidemic through misuse and diversion of medications; that**
20 **inadequate monitoring due to the low annual reimbursement cap on diagnostic**
21 **laboratory services also contributes to increased emergency room visits; that**
22 **the Department of Human Services needs adequate time to draft rules, federal**
23 **waivers, Medicaid state plan amendments, or other authorization to ensure**
24 **that this act can be effective; and that this act is necessary to ensure the**
25 **health and safety of beneficiaries of the Arkansas Medicaid Program and to**
26 **enhance the patient care for beneficiaries of the Arkansas Medicaid Program.**
27 **Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being necessary**
28 **for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become**
29 **effective on July 1, 2025.**

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32 **APPROVED: 4/14/25**
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