

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 83rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2001
4

As Engrossed: H3/27/01 H3/30/01

A Bill

Act 1557 of 2001
HOUSE BILL 2290

5 By: Representatives Bledsoe, *Judy, Rodgers, Minton, Womack, Pritchard, Dees, Haak, Rackley, Bond,*
6 *King, Trammell*
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO CREATE THE HEALTH TASK FORCE
11 *COMMISSION; TO SET MEMBERSHIP POWER AND DUTIES OF*
12 *THE COMMISSION; TO ADD A MEMBER TO THE EMERGENCY*
13 *MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL; AND FOR OTHER*
14 *PURPOSES.*

Subtitle

15
16 AN ACT TO CREATE THE HEALTH TASK FORCE
17 *COMMISSION; TO ADD A MEMBER TO THE*
18 *EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY*
19 *COUNCIL.*
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21

22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
23

24 SECTION 1. (a) There is created the Health Task Force Commission.

25 (b) The committee shall consist of at least eleven (11) members but no
26 more than twenty-one (21) members:

27 (1) The Speaker of the House of Representatives or a designee;

28 (2) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate or a designee;

29 (3) The Governor or a designee;

30 (4) The President of the Independent Physicians Association or a
31 designee;

32 (5) The Insurance Commissioner or a designee;

33 (6) The minority leader of the House of Representatives or a
34 designee;

35 (7) The minority leader of the Senate or a designee;

36 (8) A designee of the Arkansas Medical Society;

- 1 (9) A designee of the Hospital Association;
- 2 (10) The Director of the Health Department or a designee;
- 3 (11) A designee of the Minority Health Commission; and
- 4 (12)(A) The commission may add an additional ten (10) members to
5 be selected by a majority of the commission.
- 6 (B) The additional members may be composed of members of
7 the General Assembly, members of the public, or representatives of health
8 organizations.
- 9 (c)(1) The members of the commission shall serve one (1) two-year
10 term.
- 11 (2) Designations to fill vacancies shall be made for the
12 remainder of an unexpired term only.
- 13 (d) A majority of the membership of the commission shall constitute a
14 quorum.
- 15 (2) A majority of quorum shall be necessary for the transacting
16 of any business of the commission.
- 17 (e)(1) The Governor or a designee shall call the first meeting within
18 thirty (30) days of the effective date of this act and shall act as chair for
19 the first meeting.
- 20 (2) At the first meeting, the commission shall elect a
21 chairperson.
- 22 (f) The members of the commission shall be volunteers who shall
23 participate without compensation or reimbursement.
- 24 (g) The commission shall expire June 30, 2003.

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26 SECTION 2. (a) The Health Task Force Commission shall study the
27 relations among health care insurance plans, physicians and the quality of
28 health care, to include:

- 29 (1) The continuing rise in health care premiums;
- 30 (2) Reasons why physicians are prevented from treating certain
31 patients who have insurance coverage unless they join a particular health
32 maintenance organization or the patients are required to pay more than other
33 covered patients; and
- 34 (3) Whether the quality of care is being maintained when patients
35 are forced to go to other hospitals because their health care provider
36 happens to be a member of a certain network.

1 (b) The commission shall be a fact-finding commission.

2 (c) The commission shall make recommendations from the information and
3 facts gleaned from its study and fact-finding to the Legislative Council by
4 November 1, 2002.

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6 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code 20-13-205(a), concerning the membership of
7 the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council, is amended to read as
8 follows:

9 (a) There is created the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council,
10 which shall consist of ~~seventeen (17)~~ eighteen (18) members with a
11 demonstrated interest in emergency medical services, to be appointed by the
12 Governor as follows:

13 (1) Four (4) members shall be licensed medical doctors of good
14 professional standing. One (1) member shall be appointed representing each of
15 the following areas:

16 (A) The Arkansas Chapter of the American College of
17 Emergency Physicians;

18 (B) The Arkansas Academy of Family Physicians;

19 (C) The Arkansas Medical Society; and

20 (D) The medical director for a licensed paramedic
21 ambulance service;

22 (2) One (1) member recommended by the Arkansas Hospital
23 Association;

24 (3) One (1) member who shall be a member of the Arkansas
25 Emergency Department Nurses Association;

26 (4) One (1) member who shall be a member of, and recommended by,
27 the Arkansas Ambulance Owners and Operators' Association;

28 (5) One (1) member who shall be a certified EMT-Paramedic;

29 (6) One (1) member who shall be a certified EMT-Ambulance
30 driver;

31 (7) One (1) member representing fire department-based ambulance
32 services;

33 (8) One (1) member representing EMT training sites who shall
34 have had at least five (5) years' experience associated with EMT training in
35 this state;

36 (9) One (1) member who shall be a consumer representative who

1 has an interest in public health and emergency medical services. The member
2 shall be appointed by the Governor from the state at large;

3 (10) One (1) member who shall be sixty-five (65) years of age or
4 more. This member shall be appointed by the Governor from the state at large
5 and shall not belong to any other group specifically addressed in this
6 section, with the exception of the consumer representative;

7 (11) One (1) member who shall represent city-based or county-
8 based ambulance services;

9 (12) One (1) member who shall represent the Arkansas Association
10 of Chiefs of Police or the Arkansas Sheriffs Association;

11 (13) One (1) member representing fire service rescue operations
12 which do not transport patients; ~~and~~

13 (14) One (1) member licensed as an attorney at law in good
14 professional standing within this state and having a knowledge of medical and
15 legal issues; and

16 (15) One (1) member appointed from a list of two (2) nominees
17 submitted by the Arkansas Emergency Medical Technician's Association.

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19 SECTION 4. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
20 General Assembly that the Health Task force Commission expires June 30, 2003;
21 that the commission must report to the Legislative Council by November 1,
22 2002; that in order to complete all its assigned task the commission must
23 begin work by July 1, 2001. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist
24 and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public
25 peace, health and safety shall become effective on July 1, 2001.

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27 /s/ Bledsoe, et al.
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30 APPROVED: 4/12/2001
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