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	As Engrossed: S1/17/01	
2	83rd General Assembly	A Bill	Act 235 of 2001
3	Regular Session, 2001		SENATE BILL 34
4			
5	By: Senators B. Walker, Brown, Beebe		
6	By: Representatives T. Steele, Bradford		
7			
8			
9	For An Act To Be Entitled		
10	AN ACT TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED DISTRIBUTION BY THE		
11	ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH OF HIV/AIDS MEDICATION		
12	TO ARKANSAS CITIZENS WITHOUT AMPLE RESOURCES OR		
13	AVAILABLE AVENUES TO ACQUIRE MEDICATIONS; AND FOR		
14	OTHER PURPOSES.		
15			
16	Subtitle		
17	AN ACT TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED		
18	DISTRIBUTION BY THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT		
19	OF HEALTH OF HIV/AIDS MEDICATION TO		
20	ARKANSAS CITIZENS WITHOUT AMPLE		
21	RESOURCES OR AVAILABLE AVENUES TO		
22	ACQU	IRE MEDICATIONS.	
23			
24			
25	BE IT ENACTED BY THE (GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKA	NSAS:
26			
27	SECTION 1. TITE	<u>.E.</u>	
28	This act shall be known and may be cited as the "HIV/AIDS Medications		
29	Act of 2001".		
30			
31	SECTION 2. PURI	POSE.	
32	It is found and determined by the General Assembly that:		
33	(1) The citizens of Arkansas suffering from HIV/AIDS should have access		
34	to the latest drug therapies;		
35	(2) The continued spread of HIV is a danger to the public health of		
36	<u>Arkansas;</u>		

RCK429

As Engrossed: S1/17/01 SB34

1	(3) Proper treatment of individuals living with HIV/AIDS who are		
2	pregnant can significantly decrease the possibility of infecting their unborn		
3	chi I dren;		
4	(4) Infection rates among Arkansas citizens can be curtailed by the		
5	proper administration of drug therapies to those infected with HIV/AIDS;		
6	(5) The continued medical costs associated with HIV related illnesses		
7	are a threat to the medical infrastructure of Arkansas;		
8	(6) The quality of life of those individuals affected by HIV/AIDS, alor		
9	with their family members, can be enhanced through continuing drug therapies;		
10	(7) There is a pressing and immediate need for the distribution of		
11	medications for HIV/AIDS; and		
12	(8) This act can help meet these needs by furnishing financial		
13	assistance, subject to the availability of funds, to citizens of Arkansas		
14	suffering from HIV/AIDS.		
15			
16	SECTION 3. IMPLEMENTATION.		
17	The State Board of Health shall promulgate regulations to provide for		
18	the distribution of HIV/AIDS medications to Arkansas citizens without ample		
19	resources or available avenues to acquire their $\underline{\textit{medically}}$ necessary		
20	medications.		
21			
22	SECTION 4. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is hereby found and determined by the		
23	Eighty-third General Assembly that there is a pressing and immediate need for		
24	the distribution of medications for HIV/ALDS to alleviate suffering, to		
25	protect pregnant women with HIV/AIDS and their unborn children and to prevent		
26	severe damage to the medical infrastructure of Arkansas. Therefore, an		
27	emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately necessary for		
28	the preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall become effective		
29	on the date of its approval by the Governor. If the bill is neither approved		
30	nor vetoed by the Governor, it shall become effective on the expiration of the		
31	period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill. If the bill is		
32	vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, it shall become effective		
33	on the date the last house overrides the veto.		
34	/s/ B. Walker		
35			
36	APPROVED: 2/13/2001		