

1 State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H3/9/17 S3/30/17*

2 91st General Assembly

# A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2017

HOUSE BILL 2014

4

5 By: Representatives Baltz, Farrer

6 By: Senator D. Sanders

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## For An Act To Be Entitled

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*AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOL LIFE*

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*AND HEALTH INSURANCE BOARD TO EXPLORE EMERGING*

11

*THERAPIES AND COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF TREATMENTS; AND*

12

*FOR OTHER PURPOSES.*

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## Subtitle

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*TO REQUIRE THE STATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOL*

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*LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE BOARD TO*

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*EXPLORE EMERGING THERAPIES AND COST-*

19

*EFFECTIVENESS OF TREATMENT.*

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

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24 *SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.*

25 *The General Assembly finds that:*

26 *(1) The State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Board*

27 *has a fiduciary obligation to explore cost-effective treatments for its*

28 *members;*

29 *(2) There are emerging technologies that could serve as cost-*

30 *effective alternatives to surgical procedures; and*

31 *(3) Clinical organizations are increasingly providing public*

32 *guidance on quality treatment practices.*

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34 *SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 23, Chapter 79, is amended to add an*

35 *additional subchapter to read as follows:*

36 *Subchapter 17 – Emerging Therapy Act of 2017*



1  
2 23-79-1701. Title.

3 This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Emerging  
4 Therapy Act of 2017".

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6 23-79-1702. Definitions.

7 As used in this subchapter:

8 (1) "Board" means the State and Public School Life and Health  
9 Insurance Board;

10 (2) "Choosing Wisely Initiative" means the initiative  
11 established by the American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation that seeks  
12 to advance a national dialogue on avoiding wasteful or unnecessary medical  
13 tests, treatments, and procedures;

14 (3) "Emerging therapies" means therapeutic services that have  
15 not historically been covered but for which new evidence may demonstrate  
16 therapeutic enhancements, opportunities for cost-avoidance, or both;

17 (4) "Evidence" means peer-reviewed objective studies of emerging  
18 therapies; and

19 (5) "Regenerative injection therapy" means a nonsurgical  
20 orthopedic treatment performed by injecting into a joint or soft tissue a  
21 substance that stimulates the growth of normal cells and tissues for the  
22 purpose of strengthening or repairing a painful or injured joint or  
23 connective tissue.

24 23-79-1703. State and Public School Life and Health  
25 Insurance Board – Requirements.

26 (a) By the end of plan year 2017, the State and Public School Life and  
27 Health Insurance Board shall explore the evidence supporting opportunities  
28 for benefit modification informed by:

29 (1) The Choosing Wisely Initiative;

30 (2) Emerging therapies; and

31 (3) Therapeutic alternatives to invasive surgical procedures,  
32 such as regenerative injection therapy.

33 (b) By July of 2018, the State and Public School Life and Health  
34 Insurance Board shall:

35 (1) Identify and consider implementation of pilot programs that  
36 include stepped therapy or center of excellence approaches, or both, for

1 which evidence demonstrates cost savings to the plan; and  
2 (2) Identify opportunities to stimulate conversations between  
3 patients and providers about appropriate and necessary treatment, including  
4 treatment recommendations identified by the Choosing Wisely Initiative.

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6 /s/Baltz

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9 **APPROVED: 04/07/2017**  
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