

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4

As Engrossed: S3/16/17

A Bill

SENATE BILL 522

5 By: Senator E. Cheatham
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 *AN ACT TO CONTINUE TO REQUIRE HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS TO*
9 *PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR THE TREATMENT OF MORBID OBESITY;*
10 *TO EXTEND THE PILOT PROGRAM ON COVERAGE FOR MORBID*
11 *OBESITY DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT; AND FOR OTHER*
12 *PURPOSES.*

Subtitle

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16 *TO CONTINUE TO REQUIRE HEALTH BENEFIT*
17 *PLANS TO PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR THE*
18 *TREATMENT OF MORBID OBESITY; AND TO*
19 *EXTEND THE PILOT PROGRAM ON COVERAGE FOR*
20 *MORBID OBESITY DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT.*

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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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25 *SECTION 1. Uncodified identical Acts 2014 (2nd Ex. Sess.), Nos. 3 and*
26 *6, § 10, are amended to read as follows:*

27 *SECTION 10. Uncodified Acts 2011, No. 855, § 3 is amended to read as*
28 *follows:*

29 *SECTION 3. DO NOT CODIFY. Pilot Program on coverage for morbid*
30 *obesity diagnosis and treatment.*

31 *(a)(1)(A) A state and public school employees health benefit plan that*
32 *is offered, issued, or renewed on or after January 1, 2012, shall offer*
33 *coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of morbid obesity.*

34 *(B) The cost of coverage for the diagnosis and treatment*
35 *of morbid obesity offered under subdivision (a)(1)(A) of this section shall*
36 *not exceed:*



1 (i) Three million dollars (\$3,000,000) annually for
2 the Arkansas State Employees Health Benefit Plan; or

3 (ii) Three million dollars (\$3,000,000) annually for
4 the Arkansas Public school Employees Health Benefit Plan.

5 (2) The coverage for morbid obesity offered under subdivision
6 (a)(1) of this section includes without limitation coverage for bariatric
7 surgery including:

8 (A) Gastric bypass surgery;

9 (B) Adjustable gastric banding surgery;

10 (C) Sleeve gastrectomy surgery~~;~~ and

11 (D) Duodenal switch biliopancreatic diversion.

12 (b) The coverage for morbid obesity diagnosis and treatment offered
13 under this ~~subchapter~~ section does not diminish or limit benefits otherwise
14 allowable under a state and public school employees health benefit plan.

15 (c) The State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Board ~~shall~~
16 may discontinue or suspend a plan option offered under subsection (a) of this
17 section if the board determines adjustments are necessary to ensure the
18 financial soundness and overall well-being of the State and Public School
19 Life and Health Insurance Program.

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21 SECTION 2. Uncodified Acts 2011, No. 855, § 5, is amended to read as
22 follows:

23 SECTION 5. DO NOT CODIFY. This act shall become null and void and
24 cease to have any effect ~~at~~ on and after midnight on ~~December 31, 2017~~
25 December 31, 2021.

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27 /s/E. Cheatham

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30 **APPROVED: 04/05/2017**