

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1918

5 By: Representatives K. Ferguson, F. Allen, M. Gray
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH CANCER PATIENT NAVIGATION TO
9 IMPROVE THE CARE OF CANCER PATIENTS IN THIS STATE;
10 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

12
13 TO ESTABLISH CANCER PATIENT NAVIGATION TO
14 IMPROVE THE CARE OF CANCER PATIENTS IN
15 THIS STATE.
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 15, Subchapter 2, is
22 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

23 20-15-206. Cancer patient navigation.

24 (a) As used in this section:

25 (1) "Health disparity population" means a population that has
26 significant disparity in the rate of cancer incidence, prevalence, morbidity,
27 or survival rates as compared to the general population; and

28 (2) "Patient navigation" means the facilitating the care of
29 patients through:

30 (A) Acting as contacts for individuals who are found to
31 have a symptom, abnormal finding, or diagnosis of cancer following a
32 screening or early detection service, including without limitation the
33 assistance in the coordination of healthcare services and healthcare provider
34 referrals;

35 (B) Facilitating the involvement of community
36 organizations in assisting individuals who are at risk for or who have cancer



1 by creating partnerships with patient advocacy groups, charities, healthcare
 2 centers, community hospice centers, healthcare providers, or other
 3 organizations in the targeted community;

4 (C) Notifying individuals of clinical trials and if
 5 requested, facilitating enrollment in the clinical trials;

6 (D) Anticipating, identifying, and helping patients
 7 overcome barriers within the healthcare system to ensure prompt diagnostic
 8 and treatment resolution of an abnormal finding of cancer;

9 (E) Coordinating with a relevant health insurance
 10 ombudsman program to provide information to individuals who are at risk for
 11 or who have cancer about health coverage, including without limitation
 12 private insurance, healthcare savings accounts, the Arkansas Medicaid
 13 Program, and other publicly funded programs; and

14 (F) Conducting ongoing outreach to health disparity
 15 populations.

16 (b) The Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute at the University of
 17 Arkansas for Medical Sciences may establish a comprehensive cancer patient
 18 navigation program to:

19 (1) Guide patients who are diagnosed with cancer through the
 20 healthcare system;

21 (2) Help patients who are diagnosed with cancer overcome
 22 physical, emotional, social, and financial barriers to receiving timely and
 23 efficient cancer treatment; and

24 (3) Improve care of patients who are diagnosed with cancer in
 25 this state.

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