

1 State of Arkansas  
2 93rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2021  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1254

5 By: Representatives Wardlaw, M. Gray  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ARKANSAS MEDICAID PROGRAM TO  
9 RECOGNIZE AN ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE AS A  
10 PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

12 TO AUTHORIZE THE ARKANSAS MEDICAID  
13 PROGRAM TO RECOGNIZE AN ADVANCED PRACTICE  
14 REGISTERED NURSE AS A PRIMARY CARE  
15 PROVIDER.  
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 77, Subchapter 1, is  
23 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

24 20-77-140. Primary care provider for Arkansas Medicaid Program –  
25 Advanced practice registered nurse.

26 (a)(1) The Arkansas Medicaid Program shall recognize an advanced  
27 practice registered nurse licensed by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing for  
28 all purposes as a primary care provider authorized to carry out the duties of  
29 a primary care case manager.

30 (2) Purposes under subdivision (a)(1) of this section include  
31 without limitation:

32 (A) Being recognized as the initial healthcare provider in  
33 the Arkansas Medicaid Program;

34 (B) Performing initial diagnosis;

35 (C) Acting as the team leader of family practice  
36 professionals and the patient-centered medical home;



1 (D) Maintaining the medical records of a patient;

2 (E) Ordering laboratory tests and records management as  
3 needed for patient care;

4 (F) Providing preventive and periodic examinations within  
5 primary care;

6 (G) Referring a patient to a physician, a specialist, or a  
7 hospital when necessary; and

8 (H) Treating a patient within the scope of practice and  
9 licensure of an advanced practice registered nurse.

10 (b) The program shall reimburse an advanced practice registered nurse:

11 (1) Not less than the current reimbursement rate for services  
12 performed within the scope of practice and licensure of the advanced practice  
13 registered nurse;

14 (2) One hundred percent (100%) of the physician reimbursement  
15 rate for all out-of-pocket costs incurred by the advanced practice registered  
16 nurse such as the costs of laboratory tests, X-rays, and any additional tests  
17 ordered or conducted by the advanced practice registered nurse; and

18 (3)(A) For any other costs and services performed within the  
19 scope of practice and licensure of the advanced practice registered nurse.

20 (B) The scope of practice and licensure of the advanced  
21 practice registered nurse shall be determined by the board.

22 (c) A healthcare insurance policy in which the premiums are paid  
23 directly or indirectly by the program also shall recognize and reimburse an  
24 advanced practice registered nurse under subsections (a) and (b) of this  
25 section.

26 (d) This section does not increase the scope of practice or licensure  
27 of an advanced practice registered nurse.

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