

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

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 212

5 By: Senators K. Hammer, Irvin  
6 By: Representatives Warren, Cloud  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS PANS/PANDAS ADVISORY  
10 COUNCIL; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER  
11 PURPOSES.  
12  
13

## Subtitle

15 TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS PANS/PANDAS  
16 ADVISORY COUNCIL; AND TO DECLARE AN  
17 EMERGENCY.  
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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 23, Chapter 79, Subchapter 19, is  
23 amended to add additional sections to read as follows:

24 23-79-1903. Arkansas PANS/PANDAS Advisory Council – Creation –  
25 Membership – Duties.

26 (a) There is created the Arkansas PANS/PANDAS Advisory Council to  
27 consist of the following members:

28 (1) Two (2) members of the House of Representatives appointed by  
29 the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

30 (2) Two (2) members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro  
31 Tempore of the Senate;

32 (3) One (1) member who is a medical professional with two (2)  
33 years of professional experience working with PANS/PANDAS patients, appointed  
34 by the Governor;

35 (4) One (1) member who is a medical professional with two (2)  
36 years of professional experience working with PANS/PANDAS patients, appointed



1 by the council;

2 (5) The Secretary of the Department of Health or his or her  
3 designee, serving as an ex officio nonvoting member;

4 (6) The Insurance Commissioner or his or her designee, serving  
5 as an ex officio nonvoting member;

6 (7) Three (3) members appointed by the Governor who are employed  
7 by a public school district, one (1) member to be a public school nurse, one  
8 (1) member to be a public school counselor, and one (1) member to be a public  
9 school teacher;

10 (8) One (1) member who is designated by the Arkansas Hospital  
11 Association, Inc.;

12 (9) One (1) member who is designated by the Arkansas State Board  
13 of Nursing;

14 (10) One (1) member who is designated by the Arkansas  
15 Pharmacist's Association;

16 (11) One (1) member who is designated by the American Academy of  
17 Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology;

18 (12) Two (2) members who are parents, appointed by the Governor;  
19 and

20 (13) One (1) member who is designated by the Arkansas Medical,  
21 Dental, and Pharmaceutical Association, Inc.

22 (b)(1) Upon appointment to the council, the initial members shall draw  
23 lots to determine the length of their terms.

24 (2) Appointments shall be for a term of four (4) years.

25 (3) Vacancies on the council shall be filled in the same manner  
26 as provided for the initial appointment.

27 (4) The new appointee shall serve for the remainder of the  
28 unexpired term.

29 (c) Members shall serve at the pleasure of the organizations they  
30 represent or of the Governor, as indicated.

31 (d)(1) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall appoint the Chair  
32 of the Arkansas PANS/PANDAS Advisory Council who shall be one (1) of the  
33 legislative members of the council.

34 (2) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint  
35 the Vice Chair of the Arkansas PANS/PANDAS Advisory Council who shall be one  
36 (1) of the legislative members of the council.

1 (e)(1) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

2 (2) A majority vote of those members present shall be required  
 3 for any action of the council.

4 (f)(1) The council shall meet as often as is deemed necessary by the  
 5 chair.

6 (2) The council shall meet at the State Capitol Building in  
 7 Little Rock, Arkansas.

8 (g) Legislators shall be paid per diem and mileage as authorized by  
 9 law for attendance at meetings of interim committees of the General Assembly.

10 (h) The council shall receive staff support from the Bureau of  
 11 Legislative Research.

12 (i) The council may:

13 (1) Make recommendations designed to improve and increase  
 14 knowledge and develop mechanisms to increase clinical awareness and treatment  
 15 throughout the state for pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome,  
 16 also known as "PANS", and pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders  
 17 associated with streptococcal infections, also known as "PANDAS", especially  
 18 for healthcare professionals;

19 (2) Operate along with the interdisciplinary panel on  
 20 PANS/PANDAS at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences to determine  
 21 quarterly information, including case statistics, outcome measures, and other  
 22 relevant information;

23 (3) Make recommendations concerning standard practice guidelines  
 24 for the diagnosis and treatment of PANS/PANDAS for adult and pediatric  
 25 patients who have been diagnosed with PANS/PANDAS;

26 (4) Provide outreach to educators and parents;

27 (5) Develop a network of volunteer experts on PANS/PANDAS to  
 28 serve as resources within this state; and

29 (6) Consider any related topics associated with the council's  
 30 charge.

31 (j) The council shall report to the Senate Committee on Insurance and  
 32 Commerce, the House Committee on Insurance and Commerce, the Senate Committee  
 33 on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor, and the House Committee on Public  
 34 Health, Welfare, and Labor, as requested.

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 36 23-79-1904. Sunset.

1 This subchapter shall expire on December 31, 2023, unless extended by  
 2 the General Assembly.

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 4 SECTION 2. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. Arkansas PANS/PANDAS  
 5 Advisory Council – Appointment of members.

6 The members of the Arkansas PANS/PANDAS Advisory Council shall be  
 7 appointed by March 1, 2021.

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 9 SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
 10 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that pediatric acute-onset  
 11 neuropsychiatric syndrome, also known as "PANS", and pediatric autoimmune  
 12 neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections, also  
 13 known as "PANDAS", are misunderstood disorders that affect pediatric and  
 14 adult patients in Arkansas, and the Arkansas PANS/PANDAS Advisory Council has  
 15 been working to inform healthcare providers and healthcare insurers about  
 16 options available to treat PANS and PANDAS, but members of the Arkansas  
 17 PANS/PANDAS Advisory Council have been limited in their work by the fear of  
 18 exposure to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), severe acute respiratory  
 19 syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), or mutations of either of those  
 20 respective viruses; that numerous healthcare providers and healthcare  
 21 insurers do not have sufficient knowledge about PANS and PANDAS to adequately  
 22 respond to requests for treatment and coverage, and due to the effects of  
 23 coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and severe acute respiratory syndrome  
 24 coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), or mutations of either of those respective  
 25 viruses, on the people of this state, the Arkansas PANS/PANDAS Advisory  
 26 Council has ongoing projects that need immediate attention; that the Arkansas  
 27 PANS/PANDAS Advisory Council expired December 31, 2020; and that this act is  
 28 immediately necessary to allow the Arkansas PANS/PANDAS Advisory Council to  
 29 continue to provide education to healthcare providers and healthcare insurers  
 30 about the treatment and impact of PANS/PANDAS on patients and their families.  
 31 Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately  
 32 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall  
 33 become effective on:

34 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

35 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,  
 36 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the

1 bill; or

2 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is  
3 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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