INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2017-138

REQUESTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND
LABOR STUDY THE TRANSFER OF REGULATORY OVERSIGHT OF ADVANCED
PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES TO THE ARKANSAS STATE MEDICAL BOARD.

WHEREAS, the training of an advanced practice registered nurse exceeds
the education, training, and experience of registered nurses and licensed
practical nurses; and

WHEREAS, advanced practice registered nurses hold prescriptive
authority that is not held by registered nurses and licensed practical
nurses; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Board of Nursing is currently composed of
thirteen (13) members consisting of:

    (1) One (1) consumer member;
    (2) One (1) representative of the elderly;
    (3) One (1) at large registered nurse or licensed practical
        nurse;
    (4) Five (5) registered nurses;
    (5) Three (3) licensed practical nurses; and
    (6) Two (2) advanced practice registered nurses; and

WHEREAS, current Arkansas law requires only one (1) of the two (2)
advanced practice registered nurses who serve as board members of the
Arkansas State Board of Nursing to have prescriptive authority; and

WHEREAS, the majority of the Arkansas State Board of Nursing does not
have the formal training and prescriptive certification to regulate advanced
practice registered nurses with prescriptive authority; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Nurse Practitioner Association has advocated that
advanced practice registered nurses be authorized to provide the same
services as physicians; and

11-14-2018 11:08 ISP-2017-138
WHEREAS, physicians have prescriptive authority, are treated as primary
care providers, and are regulated by the Arkansas State Medical Board; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Medical Board is currently composed of
fourteen (14) members with twelve (12) of the members being physicians with
prescriptive authority; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly should ensure that regulation of similar
professions should be adequate and consistent,

NOW THEREFORE,
BE IT PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR OF
THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor study:
(1) The transfer of regulatory oversight of advanced practice
registered nurses from the Arkansas State Board of Nursing to the Arkansas
State Medical Board; and
(2) Alternatively, the shared regulatory oversight of advanced
practice registered nurses by a joint committee composed of members of the
Arkansas State Medical Board and the Arkansas State Board of Nursing.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Stephen Magie
District 72

Prepared by: JMB/JMB