

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2019-158

REQUESTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR STUDY MEDICAL PROFESSION SCOPE OF PRACTICE.

WHEREAS, detailed and accurate information concerning the current state of healthcare profession scope of practice in the State of Arkansas is difficult to find; and

WHEREAS, as detailed and accurate information concerning the current state of healthcare profession scope of practice in the State of Arkansas is difficult to find, the General Assembly has difficulty making informed decisions about scope of practice legislation and knowing what legislation would improve the quality of and access to health care; and

WHEREAS, in recent months, the need to improve quality of and access to health care in the State of Arkansas has become clear; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly has not undertaken research to determine accurate information concerning healthcare profession scope of practice in the State of Arkansas or what changes would improve the quality of or access to health care; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly should have more information about healthcare profession scope of practice to protect the health of the citizens of Arkansas,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT PROPOSED BY THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor study healthcare profession scope of practice, including without limitation an analysis and review of:

- (1) The healthcare needs in the state;
- (2) The current healthcare profession scope of practice;

1 (3) Best practices for health care delivery across the nation;

2 (4) The medical procedures and practices allowed under the  
3 Governor's declaration of a disaster emergency under the Arkansas Emergency  
4 Services Act of 1973, § 12-75-101 et seq., regarding the coronavirus disease  
5 2019 (COVID-19) to prevent the spread of an epidemic or contagious disease  
6 and an analysis of the long-term benefits of continuing those practices;

7 (5) All authorizations provided under federal law relating to  
8 healthcare profession scope of practice, including without limitation a  
9 comparison of Arkansas laws and federal laws that are either restrictive or  
10 permissive;

11 (6) Rates of reimbursement nationally, including without  
12 limitation Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement rates and how those compare  
13 with rates of reimbursement to healthcare professionals in Arkansas;

14 (7) The graduation rates of healthcare professionals from  
15 Arkansas institutions of higher education and their subsequent rates of  
16 residence for practice in those healthcare professions;

17 (8) Any healthcare scope of practice limitations in Arkansas  
18 that may be creating barriers to healthcare professionals staying in Arkansas  
19 or moving to Arkansas as compared to other states;

20 (9) Issues with accessibility to health care and to healthcare  
21 professionals in areas of the state that are a result of limitations on  
22 medical profession scope of practice, including a comparison with  
23 accessibility issues that exist in other states; and

24 (10) The need for healthcare professionals in the state as  
25 compared to the availability of healthcare professionals from Arkansas  
26 institutions of higher education that provide medical profession training,  
27 including without limitation an examination of rates of graduation both  
28 currently and as projected.

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30 Respectfully submitted,

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34 Senator Kim Hammer

35 District 33

36 Prepared by: JMB/JMB