

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2015-138

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3 REQUESTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND
4 LABOR TO STUDY WAYS TO IMPROVE NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE SERVICES
5 IN ARKANSAS.

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7 WHEREAS, a significant cause of infant mortality is premature delivery;
8 and

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10 WHEREAS, maternal and newborn intensive care for very premature
11 deliveries and births has reduced mortality for those most at risk; and

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13 WHEREAS, access to perinatal intensive care services is inconsistent in
14 Arkansas and this state lacks formal public policy to address the
15 inconsistencies,

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17 NOW THEREFORE,

18 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR
19 OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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21 THAT the Senate Committee On Public Health, Welfare, And Labor study
22 the benefits of:

23 (1) A classification system of Arkansas hospitals' neonatal
24 intensive care units as proposed by the NICU Classification Committee and
25 recommended by the State Board of Health; and

26 (2) The most optimal medical delivery system to provide risk
27 risk-appropriate medical care to reduce maternal and infant morbidity and
28 mortality and to provide the most effective and efficient high-quality care
29 to the mothers and babies of this state.

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31 Respectfully submitted,

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35 Senator Scott Flippo
36 District 17

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