

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2009-187

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3 REQUESTING THE SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH,
4 WELFARE, AND LABOR STUDY THE PREVALENCE OF STROKES AND
5 HYPERTENSION AMONG ARKANSANS.
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7 WHEREAS, the effects of strokes on our nation's health are sadly
8 misunderstood; and
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10 WHEREAS, within the next year some six hundred thousand (600,000)
11 Americans will have a stroke and one hundred sixty thousand (160,000) persons
12 will die from that condition, making it the third leading cause of death in
13 our nation; and
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15 WHEREAS, beyond the alarming human toll the economic impact of strokes
16 is likewise staggering, with direct and indirect costs totaling over fifty
17 billion dollars (\$50,000,000,000) annually; and
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19 WHEREAS, in the State of Arkansas sixty-four thousand (64,000)
20 individuals are currently living with the effects of a stroke and over one
21 thousand eight hundred (1,800) die from strokes each year; and
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23 WHEREAS, in 2007 alone there were over eight thousand four hundred
24 (8,400) stroke-related hospitalizations with a staggering total hospital cost
25 of one hundred seventy-one million dollars (\$171,000,000); and
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27 WHEREAS, Arkansas has the third highest mortality rate for strokes in
28 the United States, with strokes accounting for six point eight percent (6.8%)
29 of all deaths in the state; and
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31 WHEREAS, Arkansas is one of the unhealthiest states in the United
32 States and this is particularly true when it comes to factors known to
33 contribute to cardiovascular disease and stroke; and
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35 WHEREAS, hypertension, a major risk factor for strokes, is prevalent in
36 Arkansas and a study of hypertension and how to reduce its impact on the

1 citizens of Arkansas is imperative for the state's overall health,

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3 NOW THEREFORE,

4 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE EIGHTY-SEVENTH
5 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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7 THAT the Senate Interim Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor
8 study the prevalence of hypertension and strokes in the State of Arkansas,
9 including without limitation considering possible legislative actions to
10 promote the reduction of hypertension and other stroke risk factors among
11 Arkansans.

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13 Respectfully submitted,

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17 Senator Bobby Glover
18 District 28

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