

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2025-091

REQUESTING THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL REFER A STUDY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR REGARDING THE PROVISION OF COVERAGE FOR WEIGHT LOSS MEDICATIONS BY THE STATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOL LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, obesity causes many medical problems and costly health complications, including without limitation diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, and stroke; and

WHEREAS, usage of weight loss medications can help manage blood sugar levels in individuals with Type 2 diabetes and reduce the chances of heart attacks and strokes; and

WHEREAS, over the last several years, there has been an increased usage in weight loss medications, including without limitation glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists; and

WHEREAS, a recent Gallop poll indicated that nearly twelve percent (12%) of adults surveyed confirming they are currently taking a glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures, at least thirteen (13) states included glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists in their state employee health plans or state Medicaid programs, including without limitation Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures mention that usage of glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists may have additional health benefits of reducing the risk of substance use disorders, neurocognitive disorders, infectious diseases, some respiratory conditions, and certain cancers; and

WHEREAS, the state should conduct a thorough review of the financial obstacles leading to the decision to not provide coverage for weight loss

1 medications by the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Program
2 and prioritize options or solutions to those obstacles,

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4 NOW THEREFORE,

5 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE NINETY-FIFTH
6 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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8 THAT the Arkansas Legislative Council refer to the House Committee on
9 Public Health, Welfare, and Labor a study regarding the provision of coverage
10 for weight loss medication by the State and Public School Life and Health
11 Insurance Program.

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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT when conducting the study, the House Committee on
14 Public Health, Welfare, and Labor invite relevant stakeholders to provide
15 input.

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17 Respectfully submitted,

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21 Representative Tracy Steele

22 District 72

23 Prepared by: ANS/ANS
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