

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas  
93rd General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2021

## A Bill

DRAFT ANS/ANS  
SENATE BILL

By: Senator K. Hammer  
By: Representative Warren

### For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS PANS/PANDAS ADVISORY  
COUNCIL; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS PANS/PANDAS  
ADVISORY COUNCIL; AND TO DECLARE AN  
EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 23, Chapter 79, Subchapter 19, is  
amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

23-79-1903. Arkansas PANS/PANDAS Advisory Council – Creation –  
Membership – Duties.

(a) There is created the Arkansas PANS/PANDAS Advisory Council to  
consist of the following members:

(1) Two (2) members of the House of Representatives appointed by  
the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(2) Two (2) members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro  
Tempore of the Senate;

(3) One (1) member who is a medical professional with two (2)  
years of professional experience working with PANS/PANDAS patients, appointed  
by the Governor;

(4) One (1) member who is a medical professional with two (2)  
years of professional experience working with PANS/PANDAS patients, appointed

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1 by the Arkansas PANS/PANDAS Advisory Council;

2 (5) The Secretary of the Department of Health or his or her  
3 designee, serving as an ex officio nonvoting member;

4 (6) The Insurance Commissioner or his or her designee, serving  
5 as an ex officio nonvoting member;

6 (7) Three (3) members appointed by the Governor who are employed  
7 by a public school district, one (1) member to be a public school nurse, one  
8 (1) member to be a public school counselor, and one (1) member to be a public  
9 school teacher;

10 (8) One (1) member who is designated by the Arkansas Hospital  
11 Association, Inc.;

12 (9) One (1) member who is designated by the Arkansas State Board  
13 of Nursing;

14 (10) One (1) member who is designated by the Arkansas  
15 Pharmacist's Association;

16 (11) One (1) member who is designated by the American Academy of  
17 Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology;

18 (12) Two (2) members who are parents, appointed by the Governor;  
19 and

20 (13) One (1) member who is designated by the Arkansas Medical,  
21 Dental, and Pharmaceutical Association, Inc.

22 (b)(1) Members shall serve at the pleasure of the organizations they  
23 represent or of the Governor, as indicated.

24 (2) Vacancies on the Arkansas PANS/PANDAS Advisory Council shall  
25 be filled in the same manner as provided for the initial appointment.

26 (c)(1) The chair of the Arkansas PANS/PANDAS Advisory Council shall be  
27 one (1) of the legislative members of the interdisciplinary panel on  
28 PANS/PANDAS at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and shall be  
29 selected by the members of the interdisciplinary panel.

30 (2) The Vice Chair of the Arkansas PANS/PANDAS Advisory Council  
31 shall be one (1) of the legislative members of the interdisciplinary panel on  
32 PANS/PANDAS at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and shall be  
33 selected by the members of the interdisciplinary panel.

34 (d) The Arkansas PANS/PANDAS Advisory Council shall meet as often as  
35 is deemed necessary by the chair.

36 (e) All members of the Arkansas PANS/PANDAS Advisory Council shall

1 serve without compensation and shall not receive per diem, mileage, or  
2 stipends.

3 (f) The Arkansas PANS/PANDAS Advisory Council shall receive staff  
4 support from the Bureau of Legislative Research.

5 (g) The Arkansas PANS/PANDAS Advisory Council may:

6 (1) Make recommendations designed to improve and increase  
7 knowledge and develop mechanisms to increase clinical awareness and treatment  
8 throughout the state for pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome,  
9 also known as "PANS", and pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders  
10 associated with streptococcal infections, also known as "PANDAS", especially  
11 for healthcare professionals;

12 (2) Operate along with the interdisciplinary panel on  
13 PANS/PANDAS at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences to determine  
14 quarterly information, including case statistics, outcome measures, and other  
15 relevant information;

16 (3) Make recommendations concerning standard practice guidelines  
17 for the diagnosis and treatment of PANS/PANDAS for adult and pediatric  
18 patients who have been diagnosed with PANS/PANDAS;

19 (4) Provide outreach to educators and parents; and

20 (5) Develop a network of volunteer experts on PANS/PANDAS to  
21 serve as resources within this state.

22 (h)(1) The Arkansas PANS/PANDAS Advisory Council shall submit an  
23 annual report to the Legislative Council, the Senate Committee on Insurance  
24 and Commerce, the House Committee on Insurance and Commerce, the Senate  
25 Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor, and the House Committee on  
26 Public Health, Welfare, and Labor no later than August 31 each year.

27 (2) The Arkansas PANS/PANDAS Advisory Council shall report to  
28 the Senate Committee on Insurance and Commerce, the House Committee on  
29 Insurance and Commerce, the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and  
30 Labor, and the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor as  
31 requested.

32  
33 SECTION 2. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. Arkansas PANS/PANDAS  
34 Advisory Council – Appointment of member to advisory council.

35 The terms of the members of the Arkansas PANS/PANDAS Advisory Council  
36 shall be appointed by March 1, 2021.

1  
2       SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
3 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that pediatric acute-onset  
4 neuropsychiatric syndrome, also known as "PANS", and pediatric autoimmune  
5 neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections, also  
6 known as "PANDAS", are misunderstood disorders that affect pediatric and  
7 adult patients in Arkansas; that many healthcare providers and healthcare  
8 insurers do not have sufficient knowledge about PANS and PANDAS to adequately  
9 respond to requests for treatment and coverage; and that this act is  
10 immediately necessary to allow the Arkansas PANS/PANDAS Advisory Council to  
11 continue to provide education to healthcare providers and healthcare insurers  
12 about the treatment and impact of PANS/PANDAS on patients and their families.  
13 Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately  
14 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall  
15 become effective on:

16               (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

17               (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,  
18 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the  
19 bill; or

20               (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is  
21 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.