

State of Arkansas

76th General Assembly

First Extraordinary Session, 1987

SENATE BILL

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By: Senator Bookout

"AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTION (1) OF SECTION 1 OF ACT 298 OF 1975, AS AMENDED, TO CLARIFY THE LANGUAGE REGARDING THE POLICIES THAT MUST INCLUDE NEWBORN INFANT COVERAGE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. Subsection (1) of Section 1 of Act 298 of 1975, as amended, the same being Arkansas Statutes Annotated §66-3248 (1), is hereby amended to read as follows:

"(1) Every disability insurance policy, contract, certificate, or health care plan, sold, delivered, issued or offered for sale, issue or delivery in this State, other than coverage limited to expenses from accidents or specified diseases, whether an individual or group policy, contract, certificate, or plan, which covers the insured and members of the insured's family, shall include coverage for newborn infant children by the insured from the moment of birth. The coverage of newborn children shall be the same as is provided for other members of the insured's family and shall include coverage for illness, injury, congenital defects, premature birth, and tests for hypothyroidism and phenylketonuria, and in the case of non-caucasian newborn infants, tests for sickle-cell anemia, as well as any testing of newborn infants hereafter mandated by law and shall also include coverage to pay for routine nursery care and pediatric charges for a well newly born child for up to five (5) full days in a hospital nursery, or until the mother is discharged from the hospital following the birth of the child, whichever is the lesser period of time.

SECTION 2. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. Emergency. It is hereby found and determined by the Seventy-Sixth General Assembly, First Extraordinary Session, that the laws of this State concerning insurance matters covered in this Act are inadequate for the protection of the public and the immediate passage of this Act is necessary in order to protect the public. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, and this Act being necessary for the public peace, health and safety, shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

