

Stricken language would be deleted from present law. Underlined language would be added to present law.

1 State of Arkansas
2 81st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1997

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1936

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By: Representatives Roberts, Jones, Pollan, Brown, Northcutt, Schexnayder, Judy Smith, Wilkins, Ingram, Bennett, Horn, Bush, Lynn, Ammons, Ferrell, Madison, Walker, Hale, Dianne Hudson, Bond, Rodgers, and Shoffner

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For An Act To Be Entitled

"THE OSTEOPOROSIS PREVENTION EDUCATION ACT OF 1997"

11
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Subtitle

"THE OSTEOPOROSIS PREVENTION EDUCATION
ACT OF 1997"

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

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18 SECTION 1. This chapter may be cited as the "Osteoporosis Prevention
19 Education Act of 1997."

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21 SECTION 2. It is found and determined by the Arkansas General Assembly
22 that:

23 (1) Osteoporosis, a bone-thinning disease, is a major public health
24 problem that poses a threat to the health and quality of life to as many as
25 25,000,000 Americans;

26 (2) The annual direct and indirect costs of osteoporosis to the health
27 care system are estimated to be as high as \$18 billion in 1993 and are
28 expected to rise above \$60 billion in the year 2020;

29 (3) Since osteoporosis progresses silently and currently has no cure,
30 prevention, early diagnosis, and treatment are keys to reducing the prevalence
31 of devastation from this disease;

32 (4) Experts in the field of osteoporosis believe that with greater
33 awareness of the value of prevention among medical experts, service providers
34 and the public, osteoporosis will be preventable and treatable in the future,
35 thereby reducing the costs of long-term care and improving the quality of life
36 for all Americans; and

1 (5) Educating the public and the health care community throughout the
 2 State of Arkansas about this potentially devastating disease is of paramount
 3 importance and is in every respect in the public interest and to the benefit
 4 of all Arkansans.

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 6 SECTION 3. (a) The Department of Health shall coordinate with other
 7 agencies and organizations as funds become available to establish, promote,
 8 and maintain an osteoporosis prevention and treatment education program in
 9 order to raise public awareness, educate consumers, and educate and train
 10 health professionals, service providers, and for other purposes.

11 (b) For purposes of administering this act, the State Health Officer
 12 shall do all of the following:

13 (1) Identify the appropriate entities to carry out an
 14 osteoporosis prevention and treatment education program;

15 (2) Work to improve the capacity of community-based services to
 16 osteoporosis patients;

17 (3) Work with governmental offices, community and business
 18 leaders, community organizations, health care and human service providers, and
 19 national osteoporosis organizations to coordinate efforts and maximize state
 20 resources in the areas of prevention, education, and treatment of
 21 osteoporosis; and

22 (4) Identify and, as funds become available, replicate or use
 23 successful osteoporosis programs and procure related materials and services
 24 from organizations with appropriate expertise and knowledge of osteoporosis.

25 (c) The Department of Health shall use, as funds become available, the
 26 following strategies for raising public awareness on the causes and nature of
 27 osteoporosis, personal risk factors, value of prevention and early detection,
 28 and options for diagnosing and treating the disease:

29 (1) An outreach campaign utilizing print, radio, and television
 30 public service announcements, advertisements, posters, and other materials;

31 (2) Providing health information and risk factor assessment in
 32 regard to osteoporosis at public events;

33 (3) Targeting populations at risk for osteoporosis;

34 (4) Providing reliable information about osteoporosis to policy
 35 makers;

36 (5) Distributing information through county health departments,

1 schools, area agencies on aging, employer wellness programs, physicians,
 2 hospitals and health maintenance organizations, womens groups, non-profit
 3 organizations, and community-based organizations; and

4 (6) Any other strategy for raising public awareness about
 5 osteoporosis that is consistent with the provisions of this act.

6 (d) The Department of Health shall use, as funds become available, the
 7 following strategies for educating and training physicians, health
 8 professionals, and community service providers in regard to the most
 9 up-to-date, accurate scientific and medical information on osteoporosis
 10 prevention, diagnosis and treatment, therapeutic decision-making about
 11 osteoporosis, guidelines for detecting and treating osteoporosis in special
 12 populations, and risks and benefits of medications and research advances:

13 (1) Identify and obtain education materials for the professional
 14 health care provider which translates the latest scientific and medical
 15 information into clinical applications;

16 (2) Raise awareness among professional health care providers as
 17 to the importance of osteoporosis prevention, early detection, treatment, and
 18 rehabilitation; and

19 (3) Provide workshops and seminars for in-depth professional
 20 development in the field of the care and management of the patient with
 21 osteoporosis.

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23 SECTION 4. The Department of Health may evaluate any or all of the
 24 following:

25 (1) Research on osteoporosis being conducted within the state;

26 (2) Available technical assistance and educational materials and
 27 osteoporosis programs nationwide;

28 (3) The level of public and professional awareness about osteoporosis;

29 (4) The needs of osteoporosis patients, their families, and caregivers;

30 (5) Needs of health care providers, including physicians, nurses, and
 31 managed care organizations, in regard to caring for the osteoporosis patient;

32 (6) The services available to the osteoporosis patient;

33 (7) Existence of osteoporosis treatment programs;

34 (8) Existence of osteoporosis support groups; and

35 (9) Existence of rehabilitation services for osteoporosis patients.

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1 SECTION 5. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
2 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
3 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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5 SECTION 6. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
6 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
7 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
8 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
9 act are declared to be severable.

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11 SECTION 7. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
12 hereby repealed.

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