

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to law as it existed prior to the 82nd General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 82nd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 1999

As Engrossed: S3/15/99 S3/25/99

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 917

4  
5 By: Senator K. Smith  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 "AN ACT TO DIRECT DHS TO SEEK A *MEDICARE* WAIVER TO  
10 AUTHORIZE PAYMENTS AT THE HIGHEST *MEDICARE*  
11 REIMBURSEMENT LEVEL IN ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED  
12 AREAS OF THIS STATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

## Subtitle

15 "AN ACT TO DIRECT DHS TO SEEK A *MEDICARE*  
16 WAIVER TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENTS AT THE  
17 HIGHEST *MEDICARE* REIMBURSEMENT LEVEL IN  
18 ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED AREAS OF THIS  
19 STATE."

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22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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24 SECTION 1. (a) The General Assembly finds that:

25 (1) Certain economically disadvantaged counties in this state are  
26 in dire need of additional access to medical treatment;

27 (2) Improved access to medical treatment in economically  
28 disadvantaged counties can be achieved by offering incentives to physicians  
29 and health care facilities;

30 (3) If Medicare reimbursements were based on need for access to  
31 care rather than on cost of living, the resulting increase in Medicare  
32 reimbursements would make this state's economically disadvantaged counties  
33 more attractive to physicians and would allow healthcare facilities in those  
34 counties to upgrade their medical services; and

35 (4) As a result of increased Medicare reimbursements, more  
36 patients in economically disadvantaged counties would seek early medical

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1 treatment, thus reducing the severity of their medical conditions and the  
2 expense of treatment.

3 (b) It is the purpose of this act to seek an incentive whereby the  
4 number of physicians may be increased and the quality of health care  
5 facilities may be improved in this state's economically disadvantaged  
6 counties.

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8 SECTION 2. For purposes of this act, "economically disadvantaged  
9 county" means any county of this state in which twenty-five percent (25%) or  
10 more of the population lives below the poverty level as defined by the federal  
11 government.

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13 SECTION 3. (a) The Department of Human Services shall seek a Medicare  
14 reimbursement policy waiver or appropriate cooperative relationship with the  
15 federal government to permit Arkansas to create a ten (10) year demonstration  
16 project in this state's economically disadvantaged counties for the purpose of  
17 increasing the number of physicians and improving the healthcare facilities in  
18 those economically disadvantaged counties.

19 (b) The waiver application will request the Health Care Financing  
20 Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to allow  
21 Medicare reimbursements for this state's economically disadvantaged counties  
22 to be set at the same rate as that of San Francisco.

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24 SECTION 4. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature  
25 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code  
26 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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

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34 SECTION 6. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are  
35 hereby repealed.

36 /s/ K. Smith