

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 84th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2003
4

As Engrossed: H3/28/03 H4/2/03

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2273

5 By: Representatives Biggs, Childers
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7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO GRANT HOSPITALS, CREDENTIALING
10 ORGANIZATIONS, AND INSURANCE COMPANIES THE
11 OPTION OF UTILIZING THE CENTRALIZED CREDENTIALING
12 VERIFICATION SERVICE, OR OTHER APPROPRIATE
13 ORGANIZATIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
14

Subtitle

15 AN ACT TO GRANT HOSPITALS, CREDENTIALING
16 ORGANIZATIONS, AND INSURANCE COMPANIES
17 THE OPTION OF UTILIZING THE CENTRALIZED
18 CREDENTIALING VERIFICATION SERVICE, OR
19 OTHER APPROPRIATE ORGANIZATIONS.
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-95-107(d)(1) and (2), concerning
26 *credentialing organizations for physicians*, are amended to read as follows:

27 (d)(1)(A) The board shall provide to any credentialing organization
28 any credentialing information the board collects concerning any person
29 licensed by the board, if the person authorizes release of the information.

30 (B) The board shall provide the information within fifteen
31 (15) business days after receipt of the request.

32 (C) If any person fails or refuses for any reason to
33 authorize release of credentialing information, the requesting credentialing
34 organization shall be entitled, on grounds of such refusal, to exclude the
35 person from any privileges, contract, or network of the credentialing
36 organization.



1 (2)(A) The board shall promulgate regulations establishing a
2 credentialing information system, and the regulations shall indicate the
3 procedures for collection and release of credentialing information under this
4 section.

5 (B) The regulations shall require that before July 1, 2003, the
6 process of recredentialing a physician shall be completed within thirty (30)
7 business days, unless circumstances beyond the control of the board make
8 completion of the process within thirty (30) business days impossible or
9 unduly burdensome.

10 (C) If the credentialing process is not completed within the
11 required time and the board does not provide an adequate explanation for
12 failing to meet the time requirement, the fee for the credentialing process
13 shall be refunded to the physician.

14 (D) If disagreements arise over a claim that circumstances have
15 made timely completion impossible or unduly burdensome, the disagreement
16 shall be presented to the advisory committee established under
17 subdivision(d)(3) of this section and the decision of the advisory committee
18 shall be final.

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20 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 17-95-107(d)(7), concerning credentialing
21 organizations for physicians, is amended to read as follows:

22 (7)(A) The board may charge credentialing organizations a
23 reasonable fee for the use of the credentialing service as established by
24 rule and regulation.

25 (B) The fee shall be set in consultation with the advisory
26 committee and shall be set at such a rate as will reimburse the board, when
27 added to the credentialing assessments collected from physicians, for the
28 cost of maintaining the credentialing information system.

29 (C)The board's costs may not exceed the fees charged by
30 private vendors with a comparable statewide credentialing service.

31 (D) Each physician licensee of the board will pay a
32 credentialing fee of one hundred dollars (\$100) per year at the time of the
33 renewal of the license for the years 2000 and 2001.

34 (E) For the year 2002 and each year thereafter, the board
35 may assess each physician licensee an amount not to exceed ~~twenty-five~~
36 dollars ~~(\$25.00)~~ one hundred dollars (\$100) per year to offset the cost for

1 providing the credentialing service. ~~Physicians shall not be charged a~~
2 ~~credentialing fee by a credentialing organization.~~

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4 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 17-95-107, concerning credentialing
5 organizations for physicians, is amended to additional subsections to read as
6 follows:

7 (h) The board shall report quarterly to the House and Senate Interim
8 Committees on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor concerning the credentialing
9 process established in this section.

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11 SECTION 4. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
12 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the regulations required by
13 this act must be in effect before July 1, 2003; that the Arkansas State
14 Medical Board must have sufficient time to prepare the regulations required
15 under this act; that the continuing practice of the state's physicians may be
16 adversely affected if this act does not go into effect immediately.
17 Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately
18 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall
19 become effective on:

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

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

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

26 /s/ Biggs, et al
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