

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 S4/7/03

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2273

5 By: Representatives Biggs, Childers
6
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.
20
21
22

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
24

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 credentialing organization, hospital, or other
14 qualified recipient of the fee.

15 (D) If disagreements arise over a claim that circumstances have
16 made timely completion impossible or unduly burdensome, the disagreement
17 shall be presented to the advisory committee established under
18 subdivision(d)(3) of this section for a recommendation to the medical board
19 on whether to refund the fee or not and in what amount, so that the board may
20 issue an order to refund the fee or deny the request after consideration by
21 the board.

22
23 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 17-95-107(d)(7), concerning credentialing
24 organizations for physicians, is amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

1 (E) For the year 2002 and each year thereafter, the board
2 may assess each physician licensee an amount not to exceed ~~twenty-five~~
3 ~~dollars (\$25.00) one hundred dollars (\$100) per year to offset the cost for~~
4 providing the credentialing service. ~~Physicians shall not be charged a~~
5 ~~credentialing fee by a credentialing organization.~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 /s/ Biggs