

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 87th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2009

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1134

4
5 By: Representative Hall
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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY TO HEALTH CARE IN
10 ARKANSAS BY THE ELIMINATION OF MANDATED
11 COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN
12 ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSES AND PHYCIANS FOR
13 PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY; TO DESIGNATE ADVANCE
14 PRACTICE NURSES AS PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS; AND
15 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
16

Subtitle

17 THE HEALTH CARE ACCESS AND PRIMARY
18 PROVIDER ACT.
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22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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24 SECTION 1. The purpose of this act is to amend Title 17, Chapter 87 to
25 eliminate the mandated collaborative practice agreement between an advanced
26 practice nurse and physician for the purpose of prescriptive authority; and
27 to designate advanced practice nurses who meet education and certification
28 standards, and requirements approved by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing
29 as licensed independent practitioners and primary care providers.
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31 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 17, Chapter 87, is amended to add an
32 additional subchapter to read as follows:

33 17-87-801. Intent and purpose:

34 (a) The General Assembly finds:

35 (1) That seventy-three (73) of seventy-five (75) Arkansas
36 counties are designated as medically underserved;



1 (2) That many rural, low-income, uninsured, and Medicare and
2 Medicaid populations have limited access to primary care providers;

3 (3) That Arkansas ranks in the lower third of the national
4 average regarding health indicators such as infant mortality, obesity, and
5 tobacco-related illness and death;

6 (4) That Arkansas ranks above the national average in the use of
7 hospital emergency rooms;

8 (5) That Arkansas ranks in the lowest third of the national
9 average in comprehensive state health care; and

10 (6) That the elimination of practice barriers affecting advanced
11 practice nurses will provide increased accessibility to health care that will
12 be able to better address and serve the health care needs of individual
13 Arkansans and the state as a whole.

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