

1 State of Arkansas As Engrossed: S2/18/13 S2/27/13

2 89th General Assembly

A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2013

SENATE BILL 277

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5 By: Senators *J. Dismang, Elliott, Burnett, Files, Holland, Irvin, B. King, Rapert, B. Sample, G.*

6 *Stubblefield, J. Woods, D. Wyatt*

7 By: Representatives *Farrer, D. Altes, E. Armstrong, Baine, Copenhaver, Gillam, Hutchison, Leding,*

8 *McLean, Ratliff, Vines, Wardlaw, Wren, Wright*

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10 For An Act To Be Entitled

11 AN ACT TO REQUIRE INSURANCE COMPANIES TO PAY
12 COMPARABLE REIMBURSEMENT TO PHYSICAL THERAPISTS,
13 OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS, SPEECH-LANGUAGE
14 PATHOLOGISTS, AND PHYSICIANS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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Subtitle

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TO REQUIRE INSURANCE COMPANIES TO PAY
19 COMPARABLE REIMBURSEMENT TO PHYSICAL
20 THERAPISTS, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS,
21 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS, AND
22 PHYSICIANS.

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

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27 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 23, Chapter 79, Subchapter 1, is
28 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

29 23-79-156. Payment for services rendered by physical therapists,
30 occupational therapists and speech-language pathologists.

31 (a) As used in this section:

32 (1)(A) "Health benefit plan" means any group or blanket plan,
33 policy, or contract for health care services issued or delivered in this
34 state by health care insurers, including indemnity and managed care plans and
35 the plans providing health benefits to state and public school employees
36 under § 21-5-401 et seq., but excluding individual major medical plans and



1 plans providing health care services under Arkansas Constitution, Article 5,
2 § 32, the Workers' Compensation Law, § 11-9-101 et seq., and the Public
3 Employee Workers' Compensation Act, § 21-5-601 et seq.

4 (B) "Health benefit plan" does not include an accident-
5 only, specified disease, hospital indemnity, Medicare supplement, long-term
6 care, disability income, or other limited benefit health insurance policy;

7 (2) "Health care insurer" means any insurance company, hospital
8 and medical service corporation, or health maintenance organization issuing
9 or delivering health benefit plans in this state and subject to any of the
10 following laws:

11 (A) The insurance laws of this state;

12 (B) Section 23-75-101 et seq., pertaining to hospital and
13 medical service corporations; and

14 (C) Section 23-76-101 et seq., pertaining to health
15 maintenance organizations;

16 (3) "Licensed physical therapist, occupational therapist, or
17 speech-language pathologist" means:

18 (A) A physical therapist licensed under §§ 17-93-101 – 17-
19 93-312;

20 (B) An occupational therapist licensed under the Arkansas
21 Occupational Therapy Practice Act, § 17-88-101 et seq.; and

22 (C) A speech-language pathologist licensed under §§ 17-
23 100-102 – 17-100-308; and

24 (4) "Licensed primary care physician or osteopath" means a
25 primary care physician and an osteopath licensed under §§ 17-80-101 – 17-95-
26 505.

27 (b) An insurer shall not impose a copayment, coinsurance, or an office
28 visit deductible amount or a combination of a copayment, coinsurance, or an
29 office visit deductible amount charged to the insured for services rendered
30 for a date of service by a licensed physical therapist, occupational
31 therapist, or speech-language pathologist that is greater than the copayment,
32 coinsurance, or office visit deductible amount charged to the insured for an
33 office visit for the service of a licensed primary care physician or
34 osteopath.

35 (c) An insurer shall state in its health benefit plan:

36 (1) The availability of physical therapy, occupational therapy,

1 or speech-language pathologist coverage under its plan; and

2 (2) All related limitations, conditions, and exclusions.

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4 */s/J. Dismang*
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