

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 522

5 By: Senator E. Cheatham
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO CONTINUE TO REQUIRE HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS TO
9 PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR THE TREATMENT OF MORBID OBESITY;
10 TO MAKE THE PILOT PROGRAM ON COVERAGE FOR MORBID
11 OBESITY DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT A PERMANENT PROGRAM;
12 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

15 TO CONTINUE TO REQUIRE HEALTH BENEFIT
16 PLANS TO PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR THE
17 TREATMENT OF MORBID OBESITY; AND TO MAKE
18 THE PILOT PROGRAM ON COVERAGE FOR MORBID
19 OBESITY DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT A
20 PERMANENT PROGRAM.
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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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26 SECTION 1. Effective January 1, 2018, Arkansas Code Title 21, Chapter
27 5, Subchapter 4, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

28 21-5-419. Coverage for morbid obesity diagnosis and treatment.

29 (a)(1)(A) A state and public school employees health benefit plan that
30 is offered, issued, or renewed on or after January 1, 2018, shall offer
31 coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of morbid obesity.

32 (B) The cost of coverage for the diagnosis and treatment
33 of morbid obesity offered under subdivision (a)(1)(A) of this section shall
34 not exceed:

35 (i) Three million dollars (\$3,000,000) annually for
36 the Arkansas State Employees Health Benefit Plan; or



