1 2 3	State of Arkansas 91st General Assembly Regular Session, 2017	A Bill	SENATE BILL 522
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5	By: Senator E. Cheatham		
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7		For An Act To Be Entitled	
8	AN ACT TO CONTINUE TO REQUIRE HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS TO PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR THE TREATMENT OF MORBID OBESITY;		
9 10	TO MAKE THE PILOT PROGRAM ON COVERAGE FOR MORBID		
10		DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT A PERMANENT PROC	
12		OTHER PURPOSES.	JIAN,
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15		Subtitle	
16	ТО	CONTINUE TO REQUIRE HEALTH BENEFIT	
17	PL	ANS TO PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR THE	
18	TR	EATMENT OF MORBID OBESITY; AND TO MAKE	
19	TH	E PILOT PROGRAM ON COVERAGE FOR MORBID	
20	OB	ESITY DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT A	
21	PE	RMANENT PROGRAM.	
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24	BE IT ENACTED BY TH	E GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKAN	SAS:
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26	SECTION 1. E	ffective January 1, 2018, Arkansas Code :	Fitle 21, Chapter
27	5, Subchapter 4, is	amended to add an additional section to	read as follows:
28	<u>21-5-419. Co</u>	verage for morbid obesity diagnosis and	treatment.
29	<u>(a)(1)(A)</u> A	state and public school employees health	<u>benefit plan that</u>
30	is offered, issued,	or renewed on or after January 1, 2018,	<u>shall offer</u>
31	coverage for the di	agnosis and treatment of morbid obesity.	
32	<u> </u>	B) The cost of coverage for the diagnos:	
33	-	ffered under subdivision (a)(1)(A) of the	is section shall
34	not exceed:		
35		(i) Three million dollars (\$3,000,0	000) annually for
36	<u>the Arkansas State</u>	<u>Employees Health Benefit Plan; or</u>	



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1	(ii) Three million dollars (\$3,000,000) annually for		
2	the Arkansas Public School Employees Health Benefit Plan.		
3	(2) The coverage for morbid obesity offered under subdivision		
4	(a)(l) of this section includes without limitation coverage for bariatric		
5	surgery including:		
6	(A) Gastric bypass surgery;		
7	(B) Adjustable gastric banding surgery;		
8	(C) Sleeve gastrectomy surgery; and		
9	(D) Duodenal switch biliopancreatic diversion.		
10	(b) The coverage for morbid obesity diagnosis and treatment offered		
11	under this subchapter does not diminish or limit benefits otherwise allowable		
12	under a state and public school employees health benefit plan.		
13	(c) The State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Board may		
14	discontinue or suspend a plan option offered under subsection (a) of this		
15	section if the board determines adjustments are necessary to ensure the		
16	financial soundness and overall well-being of the State and Public School		
17	Life and Health Insurance Program.		
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