1 2	State of Arkansas 91st General Assembly	A Bill	
3	Regular Session, 2017		SENATE BILL 564
4			
5	By: Senator D. Sanders		
6			
7		For An Act To Be Entitled	
8	AN ACT TO	CLARIFY THE SCOPE OF HEALTHCARE FRAUD;	TO
9	MODIFY TH	HE SENTENCING SCHEME OF HEALTHCARE FRAUD	TO
10	BE CONSIS	STENT WITH OTHER ARKANSAS THEFT AND FRAU	TD .
11	LAWS; TO	UPDATE THE MEDICAID FRAUD ACT AND THE	
12	MEDICAID	FRAUD FALSE CLAIMS ACT; TO CONFORM THE	
13	MEDICAID	FRAUD ACT WITH THE MEDICAID FRAUD FALSE	
14	CLAIMS AC	CT; TO CONFORM THE MEDICAID FRAUD FALSE	
15	CLAIMS AC	CT TO THE FEDERAL FALSE CLAIMS ACT; AND	FOR
16	OTHER PUR	RPOSES.	
17			
18			
19		Subtitle	
20	ТО	CLARIFY THE SCOPE OF HEALTHCARE FRAUD;	
21	AND	TO UPDATE THE MEDICAID FRAUD ACT AND	
22	THE	MEDICAID FRAUD FALSE CLAIMS ACT.	
23			
24			
25	BE IT ENACTED BY THE	GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANS	SAS:
26			
27	SECTION 1. Ark	cansas Code § 5-37-217 is amended to rea	d as follows:
28	5-37-217. Heal	thcare fraud.	
29	(a) As used in	n this section:	
30	<u>(1) "Hea</u>	althcare plan" means a publicly or priva	tely funded
31	program or organizati	on that is formed to provide or pay for	healthcare goods
32	or services including	g without limitation:	
33	<u>(A)</u>	Health insurance plans;	
34	<u>(B)</u>	Managed care organization plans;	
35	<u>(C)</u>	Risk-based provider plans;	
36	(D)	Arkansas Medicaid Program;	

1	(E) The Social Security Disability Insurance program; and
2	(F) Medicare program; and
3	(2) "Knowingly" means that a person has actual knowledge of the
4	information or acts in deliberate ignorance or reckless disregard of the
5	truth or falsity of the information.
6	(a)(b) A person commits healthcare fraud if with a purpose to defraud
7	a health plan the person knowingly provides materially false information or
8	omits material information in support of:
9	(1) The person knowingly provides materially false information
10	or omits material information for the purpose of requesting payment from a
11	single health plan for a health care item or service; and
12	(2) As a result of the materially false information or omission
13	of material information, a person receives payment in an amount that the
14	person is not entitled to under the circumstances.
15	(1) An application for membership or eligibility for a
16	healthcare plan;
17	(2) A claim for payment or reimbursement as a member or provider
18	in a healthcare plan; or
19	(3) A prior claim for payment or to justify payments previously
20	received from a healthcare plan for healthcare goods or services during the
21	course of an audit or investigation conducted by the Office of Medicaid
22	Inspector General or a healthcare oversight agency with jurisdiction to
23	audit, investigate, or prosecute any form of healthcare fraud.
24	(b)(1) Healthcare fraud is a Class A misdemeanor.
25	(2) However, if on one (1) or more occasions, the payment or
26	portion of the payment wrongfully received from a single health plan in a
27	period of not more than one (1) year exceeds:
28	(A) Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) in the aggregate,
29	healthcare fraud is a Class D felony;
30	(B) Twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) in the
31	aggregate, healthcare fraud is a Class C felony;
32	(C) Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) in the aggregate,
33	healthcare fraud is a Class B felony; or
34	(D) One million dollars (\$1,000,000) in the aggregate,
35	healthcare fraud is a Class A felony.
36	(c) It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under this section

1 that the defendant was a clerk, bookkeeper, or other employee other than an 2 employee charged with the active management and control in an executive 3 capacity of the affairs of the corporation who executed the orders of his or 4 her employer or of a superior employee generally authorized to direct his or 5 her activities. 6 (c) Healthcare fraud is a: 7 (1) Class A misdemeanor if the aggregate amount of the 8 healthcare fraud in any period of twelve (12) months is less than two hundred 9 dollars (\$200); 10 (2) Class D felony if the aggregate amount of the healthcare 11 fraud in any period of twelve (12) months is at two hundred dollars (\$200) or 12 more but less than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500); 13 (3) Class B felony if the aggregate amount of the healthcare fraud in any period of twelve (12) months is two thousand five hundred 14 15 dollars (\$2,500) or more but less than twenty-five thousand dollars 16 (\$25,000); and 17 (4) Class A felony if the aggregate amount of the healthcare 18 fraud in any period of twelve (12) months is twenty-five thousand dollars 19 (\$25,000) or more. 20 21 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 5-55-102 is amended to read as follows: 22 5-55-102. Definitions. 23 As used in this subchapter: 24 (1) "Arkansas Medicaid Program" means the program authorized 25 under Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1396 et seq., that 26 provides for payments for medical goods or services on behalf of indigent 27 families with dependent children and of aged, blind, or disabled individuals 28 whose income and resources are insufficient to meet the cost of necessary 29 medical services, including all transactions through the actual delivery of 30 healthcare goods or services to a Medicaid recipient regardless of whether the healthcare goods or services are paid for directly by the Department of 31 32 Human Services or indirectly through a fiscal agent, contractor, 33 subcontractor, risk-based provider organization, managed care organization, 34 or individual; 35 (2) "Claim" means any written or electronically submitted

request or demand for reimbursement or payment made to the Arkansas Medicaid

- 1 Program by any Medicaid provider or its fiscal agents for each good or
- 2 service purported to have been provided to any Medicaid recipient whether or
- 3 not the State of Arkansas provides any or no portion of the money that is
- 4 requested or demanded;
- 5 (3) "Fiscal agents agent" means any individual, firm,
- 6 corporation, professional association, partnership, organization, <u>risk-based</u>
- 7 provider organization, managed care organization, or other legal entity that,
- 8 through a contractual relationship with the Department of Human Services and,
- 9 thereby, the State of Arkansas receives, processes, and or pays claims for
- 10 the delivery of healthcare goods or services to Medicaid recipients under the
- 11 Arkansas Medicaid Program;
- 12 (4) "Managed care organization" means a health insurer, Medicaid
- 13 provider, or other business entity authorized by state law or through a
- 14 contract with the state to receive a fixed or capitated rate or fee to manage
- 15 <u>all or a portion of the delivery of healthcare goods or services to Medicaid</u>
- 16 <u>recipients;</u>
- 17 (5)(A) "Medicaid provider" means a person, business
- 18 <u>organization</u>, risk-based provider organization, or managed care organization
- 19 that delivers, purports to deliver, or arranges for the delivery of
- 20 <u>healthcare goods or services to a Medicaid recipient under the Arkansas</u>
- 21 Medicaid Program.
- 22 (B) "Medicaid provider" includes an employee, agent,
- 23 representative, contractor, or subcontractor of a person, business
- 24 organization, risk-based provider organization, or managed care organization;
- 25 <u>(6)</u> "Medicaid recipient" means any individual in whose behalf
- 26 any person claimed or received any payment from the Arkansas Medicaid Program
- 27 or its fiscal agents, whether or not the individual was eligible for benefits
- 28 under the Arkansas Medicaid Program;
- 29 $\frac{(5)}{(7)}$ "Person" means any:
- 30 (A) Provider Medicaid provider of goods or services under
- 31 the Arkansas Medicaid Program or any employee of the Medicaid provider,
- 32 independent contractor of the Medicaid provider, contractor of the Medicaid
- 33 provider, or subcontractor of the Medicaid provider, whether the provider be
- 34 an individual, individual medical vendor, firm, corporation, professional
- 35 association, partnership, organization, <u>risk-based provider organization</u>,
- 36 <u>managed care organization</u>, or other legal entity; or

1	(B) Individual, individual medical vendor, firm,
2	corporation, professional association, partnership, organization, $\underline{\text{risk-based}}$
3	provider organization, managed care organization, or other legal entity, or
4	any employee of any individual, individual medical vendor, firm, corporation,
5	professional association, partnership, organization, risk-based provider
6	organization, managed care organization, or other legal entity, not a
7	Medicaid provider under the Arkansas Medicaid Program but that provides goods
8	or services to a ${\underline{\tt Medicaid}}$ provider under the Arkansas Medicaid Program for
9	which the ${\underline{\tt Medicaid}}$ provider submits claims to the Arkansas ${\underline{\tt Medicaid}}$ Program
10	or its fiscal agents; and
11	$\frac{(6)(8)(A)}{(8)(A)}$ "Records" means all documents that disclose the
12	nature, extent, and level of healthcare goods and services provided to
13	Medicaid recipients, including, but not limited to, medical documents and X-
14	rays, developed by any person through the claimed provision of any goods or
15	services to any Medicaid recipient without limitation documents that
16	completely and accurately explain all evaluations, care provided, diagnoses,
17	dates of delivery, and any other activities of the Medicaid provider in
18	connection to the delivery of healthcare goods and services, billing, or the
19	receipt of payment for all Medicaid claims.
20	(B) "Records" include x-rays, magnetic resonance imaging
21	scans, computed tomography scans, computed axial tomography scans, and other
22	diagnostic imaging commonly used and retained as part of the medical records
23	of a patient.
24	
25	SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 5-55-104(f) and (g), concerning records
26	within the Medicaid Fraud Act, is amended to read as follows:
27	(f)(1) All persons A Medicaid provider or person providing healthcare
28	goods or services under the Arkansas Medicaid Program are is required to
29	maintain at their principal place of Medicaid business all records at least
30	for a period of $\underline{\text{not less than}}$ five (5) years from the date of claimed
31	provision of any goods or services to any Medicaid recipient.
32	(2) The records described in subdivision (f)(1) of this section
33	shall be available for audit during regular business hours at the address
34	listed in the Medicaid provider agreement or where the healthcare goods or
35	services are provided.
36	(3) If the healthcare goods or services are provided in the home

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- of the Medicaid recipient, the records shall be maintained at the principal place of business of the Medicaid provider.
- 3 (4) If a Medicaid provider goes out of business, the provider
 4 shall give written notification to the Department of Human Services and the
- 5 Office of Medicaid Inspector General of where and how the records will be 6 stored.
- 7 (g)(1) It is unlawful to destroy or alter any record or supporting
- 8 documentation with a purpose to conceal a false or fraudulent claim made to
- 9 the Arkansas Medicaid Program or to interfere with an audit, investigation,
- 10 or prosecution related to a claim made to the Arkansas Medicaid Program.
- 11 (2) A violation of subdivision (g)(1) of this section is a Class
- 12 <u>B felony.</u>
- (h)(1) Any person found not to have maintained any records as required
- 14 under this subchapter, applicable state law, or applicable federal law or
- 15 <u>regulations governing Medicaid upon conviction</u> is guilty of a Class D felony
- 16 if the unavailability of records impairs or obstructs the prosecution of a
- 17 felony.
- 18 (2) Otherwise, the unavailability of records a violation of
- 19 <u>subdivision (h)(1) of this section</u> is a Class A misdemeanor.

- 21 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code §§ 5-55-107 and 5-55-108 are amended to read
- 22 as follows:
- 23 5-55-107. Restitution and collection.
- 24 (a) In addition to any other fine that may be levied under § 5-4-201,
- 25 any person found guilty of or who pleads guilty or nolo contendere to
- 26 Medicaid fraud as described in this subchapter is required to <u>make full</u>
- 27 restitution to:
- 28 (1) Make full restitution to the The Department of Human
- 29 Services, with the restitution to be deposited into the Arkansas Medicaid
- 30 Program Trust Fund for the loss to the Arkansas Medicaid Program or its
- 31 fiscal agents; and
- 32 (2)(A) Pay a mandatory fine in the amount of three (3) times the
- 33 amount of all payments judicially found to have been illegally received from
- 34 the Arkansas Medicaid Program or its fiscal agents.
- 35 (B) The mandatory fine shall be credited to the general
- 36 revenues of the State of Arkansas The office of the Attorney General for

1	reasonable and necessary expenses incurred by the office of the Attorney
2	General during investigation and prosecution.
3	(b)(1) In addition to any other fine mandated by this subchapter or
4	that may be levied under § 5-4-201, any person found guilty of Medicaid
5	fraud as described in this subchapter may be required to pay a fine into the
6	State Treasury in any amount up to three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for each
7	claim judicially found to be fraudulently submitted to the Arkansas Medicaid
8	Program or its fiscal agents.
9	(2) A fine under subdivision $(b)(1)$ of this section shall be
10	credited to the general revenues of the State of Arkansas.
11	(c) For prosecutions brought under this subchapter, the following
12	provisions apply:
13	(1) To enable the court to properly fix the amount of
14	restitution, the prosecuting attorney after appropriate investigation, shall
15	recommend an amount that would make the Arkansas Medicaid Program whole with
16	respect to the money fraudulently received from the Arkansas Medicaid
17	Program, including the expense of investigation and all other measurable
18	monetary damages directly related to the offense;
19	(2) If the defendant disagrees with the recommendation of the
20	prosecuting attorney, he or she is entitled to introduce evidence in
21	mitigation of the amount recommended; and
22	(3) The monetary judgment for restitution, as provided in this
23	subchapter, becomes a judgment against the offender and has the same force
24	and effect as any other civil judgment recorded in this state.
25	(d)(1) The Attorney General has concurrent jurisdiction and authority
26	with the prosecuting attorney to collect all fines and amounts of restitution
27	levied pursuant to any criminal violation of this subchapter in the manner
28	provided by § 5-4-204, with interest accruing on any amount of restitution to
29	be made and any fine to be paid from and after default in the payment of the
30	restitution or fine in the manner provided in § 16-65-114.
31	(2) However, this subsection is not in any way intended to
32	affect the contempt power of any court.
33	(b)(1) Upon a conviction of Medicaid fraud, the sentencing authority
34	shall make a finding regarding the amount of restitution that a defendant
35	shall pay including without limitation:

(A) The full amount of the monetary loss to the Arkansas

1	medicaid Program and its liscal agents;
2	(B) The amount of reasonable and necessary expenses
3	incurred by the office of the Attorney General during the investigation and
4	prosecution; and
5	(C) Any other measurable monetary damages directly related
6	to the Medicaid fraud.
7	(2) Except as provided in subdivision (b)(1) of this section,
8	the sentencing authority shall follow the procedures for determination of the
9	restitution amount under § 5-4-205.
10	(c)(1) In addition to the judgment and commitment order in a criminal
11	case, a court shall enter a separate restitution order against the defendant
12	convicted of Medicaid fraud regarding restitution consistent with this
13	<u>section</u> and § 5-55-108.
14	(2) The restitution order is a judgment against the defendant
15	and has the same effect as any other civil judgment recorded in the state.
16	(3) The restitution order shall:
17	(A) Require the defendant to:
18	(i) Comply with § 16-66-221 by filing a schedule of
19	property; and
20	(ii) Update the schedule of property on an annual
21	basis until the restitution is paid in full;
22	(B) State that:
23	(i) Interest shall accrue on the amount of the
24	restitution from the date of the restitution order under § 16-65-114; and
25	(ii) Restitution may be collected through an
26	interception of the defendant's state income tax return under § 5-4-206 if
27	the defendant fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the
28	restitution order.
29	(d)(1)(A) The Attorney General may use all available civil remedies
30	under state law to collect on a restitution order under this section.
31	(B) Civil efforts to collect restitution may proceed
32	jointly with criminal efforts to collect restitution.
33	(C) This subsection does not limit the contempt power of
34	the court or prevent a court from revoking the probation or suspended
35	sentence of a defendant who has willfully failed to pay restitution ordered
36	under this section.

1	(2)(A) The Attorney General shall provide a full accounting of
2	any restitution collected using civil remedies to the court.
3	(B) A defendant shall not be required to pay restitution
4	more than one (1) time.
5	(3)(A) Restitution ordered for a loss to the Arkansas Medicaid
6	Program shall not be excused by the court.
7	(B) A conviction under this subchapter shall not be sealed
8	or expunged until all ordered restitution is paid in full.
9	(e)(1) Restitution ordered for losses to the Arkansas Medicaid Program
10	shall be paid to the Arkansas Medicaid Program Trust Fund and used by the
11	Department of Human Services as required by state law.
12	(2) Restitution ordered for reasonable and necessary expenses
13	incurred by the office of the Attorney General during investigation and
14	prosecution shall be paid to the office of the Attorney General to be
15	retained and used in future investigations for Medicaid fraud.
16	
17	5-55-108. Givil penalties — Expenses Mandatory fines.
18	(a) (1) Any person against which any civil judgment is entered as the
19	result of a civil action brought or threatened to be brought by the State of
20	Arkansas, through the Attorney General, on a complaint alleging the person to
21	have fraudulently received any payment from the Arkansas Medicaid Program or
22	its fiscal agents, is required to pay a civil penalty in the amount of two
23	(2) times the amount of all payments judicially found to have been
24	fraudulently received from the Arkansas Medicaid Program or its fiscal
25	agents. who is found guilty of or who pleads guilty or nolo contendere to
26	Medicaid fraud as described in this subchapter shall pay one (1) of the
27	following mandatory fines:
28	(1) If no monetary loss is incurred by the Arkansas Medicaid
29	Program, a fine of not less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more than
30	three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for each omission or fraudulent act or claim;
31	<u>or</u>
32	(2) If a monetary loss is incurred by the Arkansas Medicaid
33	Program, a fine of an amount not less than the amount of the monetary loss to
34	the Arkansas Medicaid Program and not more than three (3) times the amount of
35	the monetary loss to the Arkansas Medicaid Program.
36	(2) Any penalty shall be paid into the State Treasury and

1 credited to the General Revenue Fund. 2 (3) The judgment upon which the civil penalty is based shall be 3 paid as restitution to the Department of Human Services. 4 (b)(1) Any person against which any civil judgment is entered as the 5 result of a civil action brought or threatened to be brought by the State of 6 Arkansas, through the Attorney General, on a complaint alleging the person to 7 have fraudulently submitted any claim to the Arkansas Medicaid Program or its 8 fiscal agents, may be required to pay a civil penalty into the State Treasury 9 in any amount up to two thousand dollars (\$2,000) for each claim judicially 10 found to have been fraudulently submitted to the Arkansas Medicaid Program or 11 its fiscal agents. 12 (2) The entirety of the civil penalty shall be credited to the 13 fund. 14 (c)(1) Any person against which any civil judgment is entered as the 15 result of a civil action brought or threatened to be brought by the State of 16 Arkansas, through the Attorney Ceneral, on a complaint alleging any 17 fraudulent receipt of payment from or false claim submitted to the Arkansas 18 Medicaid Program or its fiscal agents, may be required to pay into the State Treasury all reasonable expenses that the court determines have been 19 20 necessarily incurred by the Attorney General in the enforcement of this 21 subchapter. 22 (2) The entirety of the amount under subdivision (c)(1) of this 23 section shall be credited to the fund. (b) The mandatory fines described in this section: 24 25 (1)(A) May be waived by the prosecuting attorney if the Attorney 26 General has obtained a judgment or settlement under the Medicaid Fraud False 27 Claims Act, § 20-77-901 et seg. 28 (B) If the mandatory fines are waived, the trier of fact 29 may impose fines under § 5-4-201; and 30 (2) Shall be credited to the general revenues of the State of 31 Arkansas.

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(c) The Attorney General and the prosecuting attorney concurrently 33 have the jurisdiction and authority to collect all fines and restitution 34 levied under any criminal violation of this subchapter in any manner provided

35 by state law.

- 1 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 5-55-111 is amended to read as follows:
- 2 5-55-111. Criminal acts constituting Medicaid fraud.
- 3 A person commits Medicaid fraud when he or she:
- 4 (1) Purposely makes or causes to be made any omission or false
- 5 statement or representation of a material fact in any claim, request for
- 6 payment, or application for any benefit or payment under the Arkansas
- 7 Medicaid Program;
- 8 (2) At any time purposely makes or causes to be made any
- 9 omission or false statement or representation of a material fact for use in
- 10 determining rights to a benefit or payment under the Arkansas Medicaid
- 11 Program;
- 12 (3) Having knowledge of the occurrence of any event affecting
- 13 his or her initial or continued right to any benefit or payment under the
- 14 Arkansas Medicaid Program, or the initial or continued right to any benefit
- 15 or payment under the Arkansas Medicaid Program of any other individual in
- 16 whose behalf he or she has applied for or is receiving the benefit or payment
- 17 under the Arkansas Medicaid Program, purposely conceals or fails to disclose
- 18 the event with an intent fraudulently to secure the benefit or payment under
- 19 the Arkansas Medicaid Program either in a greater amount or quantity than is
- 20 due or when no benefit or payment under the Arkansas Medicaid Program is
- 21 authorized:
- 22 (4) Having made or submitted a claim, request for payment, or
- 23 application to receive any benefit or payment under the Arkansas Medicaid
- 24 Program for the use and benefit of another person and having received it,
- 25 purposely converts the benefit or payment under the Arkansas Medicaid Program
- 26 or any part of the benefit or payment under the Arkansas Medicaid Program to
- 27 a use other than for the use and benefit of the other person;
- 28 (5) Purposely presents or causes to be presented a claim for a
- 29 physician's service for which payment may be made under a program under the
- 30 Arkansas Medicaid Program while knowing that the individual who furnished the
- 31 service was not licensed as a physician;
- 32 (6) Purposely solicits or receives any remuneration, including
- 33 any kickback, bribe, or rebate, directly or indirectly, overtly or covertly,
- 34 in cash or in kind:
- 35 (A) In return for referring an individual to a person for
- 36 the furnishing or arranging for the furnishing of any item or service for

- 1 which payment may be made in whole or in part under the Arkansas Medicaid
- 2 Program; or
- 3 (B) In return for purchasing, leasing, ordering, or
- 4 arranging for or recommending purchasing, leasing, or ordering any good,
- 5 facility, service, or item for which payment may be made in whole or in part
- 6 under the Arkansas Medicaid Program;
- 7 (7)(A) Purposely offers or pays any remuneration, including any
- 8 kickback, bribe, or rebate, directly or indirectly, overtly or covertly, in
- 9 cash or in kind, to any person to induce that person to:
- 10 (i) Refer an individual to a person for the
- 11 furnishing or arranging for the furnishing of any item or service for which
- 12 payment may be made in whole or in part under the Arkansas Medicaid Program;
- 13 or
- 14 (ii) Purchase, lease, order, or arrange for or
- 15 recommend purchasing, leasing, or ordering any good, facility, service, or
- 16 item for which payment may be made in whole or in part under the Arkansas
- 17 Medicaid Program.
- 18 (B) Subdivisions (7)(A)(i) and (ii) of this section do not
- 19 apply to:
- 20 (i) A discount or other reduction in price obtained
- 21 by a provider of services or other entity under the Arkansas Medicaid Program
- 22 if the reduction in price is properly disclosed and appropriately reflected
- 23 in the costs claimed or charges made by the provider or entity under the
- 24 Arkansas Medicaid Program;
- 25 (ii) Any amount paid by an employer to an employee
- 26 who has a bona fide employment relationship with the employer for employment
- 27 in the provision of covered items or services;
- 28 (iii) Any amount paid by a vendor of goods or
- 29 services to a person authorized to act as a purchasing agent for a group of
- 30 individuals or entities who are furnishing services reimbursed under the
- 31 Arkansas Medicaid Program if:
- 32 (a) The person has a written contract with
- 33 each individual or entity that specifies the amount to be paid to the person
- 34 and the amount may be a fixed amount or a fixed percentage of the value of
- 35 the purchases made by each individual or entity under the contract; and
- 36 (b) In the case of an entity that is a

- 1 provider of services as defined in § 20-9-101, the person discloses in such
- 2 form and manner as the Director of the Department of Human Services requires
- 3 to the entity and, upon request, to the director the amount received from
- 4 each vendor with respect to purchases made by or on behalf of the entity; or
- 5 (iv) Any payment practice specified by the director
- 6 promulgated pursuant to applicable federal or state law;
- 7 (8) Purposely makes or causes to be made, or induces or seeks to
- 8 induce the making of, any omission or false statement or representation of a
- 9 material fact with respect to the conditions or operation of any institution,
- 10 facility, or entity Medicaid provider in order that the institution,
- 11 facility, or entity Medicaid provider may qualify either upon initial
- 12 certification or upon recertification as a hospital, rural primary care
- 13 hospital, skilled nursing facility, nursing facility, intermediate care
- 14 facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities, home health agency,
- 15 or other entity, including an eligible organization under applicable federal
- 16 law for which certification is required, or with respect to information
- 17 required pursuant to applicable federal and state law, rules, regulations,
- 18 and provider agreements to obtain or maintain any licensure or certification
- 19 when the licensure or certification is required to be enrolled or eligible to
- 20 deliver any healthcare goods or services to Medicaid recipients by state law,
- 21 federal law, or the rules of the Arkansas Medicaid Program;
- 22 (9) Purposely:
- 23 (A) Charges, for any service provided to a patient under
- 24 the Arkansas Medicaid Program, money or other consideration at a rate in
- 25 excess of the rates established by the state; or
- 26 (B) Charges, solicits, accepts, or receives, in addition
- 27 to any amount otherwise required to be paid under the Arkansas Medicaid
- 28 Program, any gift, money, donation, or other consideration other than a
- 29 charitable, religious, or philanthropic contribution from an organization or
- 30 from a person unrelated to the patient:
- 31 (i) As a precondition of admitting a patient to a
- 32 hospital, nursing facility, or intermediate care facility for individuals
- 33 with intellectual disabilities; or
- 34 (ii) As a requirement for the patient's continued
- 35 stay in a hospital, nursing facility, or intermediate care facility for
- 36 individuals with intellectual disabilities when the cost of the services

	provided in the hospital, hursing facility, or intermediate care facility for
2	individuals with intellectual disabilities to the patient is paid for in
3	whole or in part under the Arkansas Medicaid Program; or
4	(10) Purposely makes or causes to be made any false statement or
5	representation of a material fact in any application for a benefit or payment
6	in violation of the rules, regulations, and provider agreements issued by the
7	Arkansas Medicaid Program or its fiscal agents;
8	(11) Knowingly submits false documentation or makes or causes to
9	be made, or induces or seeks to induce any material false statement to the
10	Office of Medicaid Inspector General or the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit
11	within the office of the Attorney General during an audit or in response to a
12	request for information or a subpoena;
13	(12) Purposely forges the signature of a doctor, nurse, or other
14	medical professional on a prescription, referral for healthcare goods or
15	services, or finding of medical necessity;
16	(13) Knowingly submits a forged prescription, referral for
17	healthcare goods or services, or finding of medical necessity for:
18	(A) Payment under the Arkansas Medicaid Program; or
19	(B) An audit or in response to a request for information
20	or a subpoena to the Office of Medicaid Inspector General or the Medicaid
21	Fraud Control Unit within the office of the Attorney General; or
22	(14) Purposely places a false entry in a medical chart, medical
23	record, or any record of services required to made to the Arkansas Medicaid
24	Program that indicates that healthcare goods or services have been provided
25	to a Medicaid recipient knowing that the healthcare goods or services were
26	not provided.
27	
28	SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 5-55-112 is repealed.
29	5-55-112. Disposition of offenders.
30	For a prosecution under this subchapter:
31	(1) The punishment shall be fixed by the finder of fact, whether
32	a court or a jury; and
33	(2) Restitution shall be fixed by the court.
34	
35	SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 5-55-114(a), concerning the special deputy
36	prosecutor under the Medicaid Fraud Act, is amended to read as follows:

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1
           (a) An attorney employed by the office of the Attorney General may be
 2
    designated a special deputy prosecutor by the prosecuting attorney having
 3
    criminal jurisdiction in the matter for the purposes of prosecuting in a
 4
    court of competent jurisdiction an action brought under this subchapter A
 5
    prosecuting attorney having jurisdiction over an offense may designate an
 6
    attorney employed by the office of the Attorney General as a special duty
 7
    prosecutor to prosecute any charges related to healthcare fraud or any other
8
    charges that may arise from the same factual allegations or may be properly
9
     joined under state law.
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11
           SECTION 8. Arkansas Code §§ 20-77-901-20-77-903 are amended to read
12
     as follows:
           20-77-901. Definitions.
13
14
          As used in this subchapter:
15
                     "Arkansas Medicaid Program" means the program authorized
16
    under Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1396 et seq., that
17
    which provides for payments for medical goods or services on behalf of
18
     indigent families with dependent children and of aged, blind, or disabled
19
     individuals whose income and resources are insufficient to meet the cost of
20
    necessary medical services, including all transactions through the actual
    delivery of healthcare goods or services to a Medicaid recipient regardless
21
22
    of whether the healthcare goods or services are paid for directly by the
23
    Department of Human Services or indirectly through a fiscal agent,
24
    contractor, subcontractor, risk-based provider organization, managed care
    organization, or individual;
25
26
                 (2)(A) "Claim" includes any request or demand, including any and
27
    all documents or information required by federal or state law or by rule,
28
    made against medical assistance programs funds for payment. A claim may be
29
    based on costs or projected costs and includes any entry or omission in a
30
    cost report or similar document, book of account, or any other document which
    supports, or attempts to support, the claim. A claim may be made through
31
32
    electronic means if authorized by the Department of Human Services. Each
33
    claim may be treated as a separate claim, or several claims may be combined
34
    to form one (1) claim; means any request or demand for money or property,
35
    regardless of whether under a contract, that:
36
                             (i) Is presented to an officer, employee, agent, or
```

1	tiscal agent of the Arkansas Medicaid Program;
2	(ii) Is made to a contractor, grantee, or other
3	recipient if:
4	(a) The money or property is spent or used on
5	behalf of the Arkansas Medicaid Program or to advance the Arkansas Medicaid
6	Program or its interest; and
7	(b) The Arkansas Medicaid Program:
8	(1) Provides or has provided any portion
9	of the money or property requested or demanded; or
10	(2) Is reimbursing the contractor,
11	grantee, or other recipient for any portion of the money or property which is
12	requested or demanded.
13	(B) "Claim" includes:
14	(i) Billing documentation;
15	(ii) All documentation required to be created or
16	maintained by law or rule to justify, support, or document the delivery of
17	healthcare goods or services to a Medicaid recipient;
18	(iii) All documentation submitted to justify or help
19	establish a unit rate, capitated rate, or other method of determining what to
20	be paid for healthcare goods or services delivered to Medicaid recipients;
21	<u>and</u>
22	(iv) All transactions in payment for healthcare
23	goods or services delivered or claimed to have been delivered to Medicaid
24	recipients under the Arkansas Medicaid Program regardless of whether the
25	State of Arkansas has title to the money or property or has transferred
26	responsibility for delivering healthcare services to another legal entity;
27	(3) "Damages" means the actual loss to the Arkansas Medicaid
28	Program and its fiscal agents, including the total amount of all claims paid
29	as a result of any false claim and the value of healthcare goods or services
30	paid for but not delivered to a Medicaid recipient;
31	(3)(4) "Fiscal agent" means any individual, firm, corporation,
32	professional association, partnership, organization, risk-based provider
33	organization, managed care organization, or other legal entity which, through
34	a contractual relationship with the department, the State of Arkansas that
35	receives, processes, and or pays claims for the delivery of healthcare goods
36	and services to Medicaid recipients under the program;

1	(4)(5)(A) "Knowing" or "knowingly" means that the person has
2	actual knowledge of the information or acts in deliberate ignorance or
3	reckless disregard of the truth or falsity of the information.
4	(B) "Knowing" or "knowingly" does not require proof of a
5	specific intent to defraud;
6	(5)(6) "Material" means having a natural tendency to influence,
7	or be capable of influencing, the payment or receipt of money or property;
8	(7) "Managed care organization" means a health insurer, Medicaid
9	provider, or other business entity authorized by state law or through a
10	contract with the state to receive a fixed or capitated rate or fee to manage
11	all or a portion of the delivery of healthcare goods or services to Medicaid
12	recipients;
13	(8)(A) "Medicaid provider" means a person, business
14	organization, risk-based provider organization, or managed care organization
15	that delivers, purports to deliver, or arranges for the delivery of
16	healthcare goods or services to a Medicaid recipient under the Arkansas
17	Medicaid Program.
18	(B) "Medicaid provider" includes an employee, agent,
19	representative, contractor, or subcontractor of a person, business
20	organization, risk-based provider organization, or managed care organization;
21	(9) "Medicaid recipient" means any individual on whose behalf
22	any person claimed or received any payment or payments from the program or
23	its fiscal agents, whether or not the individual was eligible for benefits
24	under the program;
25	(10) "Obligation" means an established duty arising from:
26	(A) An express or implied contract, grantor-grantee, or
27	<u>licensor-licensee relationship;</u>
28	(B) A fee-based or similar relationship;
29	(C) State law or rule;
30	(D) Federal law or regulation; or
31	(E) Retention of any overpayment;
32	(6)(11) "Person" means any:
33	(A) Medicaid provider of goods or services or any
34	${\tt employee}, \underline{{\tt independent\ contractor}}, \underline{{\tt or\ subcontractor}} \ \mathtt{of\ the\ } \underline{{\tt Medicaid}} \ \mathtt{provider},$
35	whether that provider be an individual, individual medical vendor, firm,
36	corporation, professional association, partnership, organization, <u>risk-based</u>

1 provider organization, managed care organization, or other legal entity under the program but which provides goods or services to a provider under the 2 3 program or its fiscal agents; or 4 (B) Individual, individual medical vendor, firm, 5 corporation, professional association, partnership, organization, risk-based 6 provider organization, managed care organization, or other legal entity, or 7 any employee of any individual, individual medical vendor, firm, corporation, 8 professional association, partnership, organization, risk-based provider 9 organization, managed care organization, or other legal entity, not a 10 Medicaid provider under the Arkansas Medicaid Program but that provides goods 11 or services to a Medicaid provider under the Arkansas Medicaid Program for 12 which the Medicaid provider submits claims to the Arkansas Medicaid Program 13 or its fiscal agents; and 14 (7)(12)(A) "Records" means all documents in any form, including, 15 but not limited to, medical documents and X rays, prepared by any person for 16 the purported provision of any goods or services to any Medicaid recipient 17 that disclose the nature, extent, and level of healthcare goods and services 18 provided to Medicaid recipients including without limitation documents that 19 completely and accurately explain all evaluations, care provided, diagnoses, 20 dates of delivery, and any other activities of the Medicaid provider in 21 connection to the delivery of healthcare goods and services, billing, or the 22 receipt of payment for all Medicaid claims. 23 (B) "Records" include x-rays, magnetic resonance imaging scans, computed tomography scans, computed axial tomography scans, and other 24 25 diagnostic imaging commonly used and retained as part of the medical records 26 of a patient. 27 20-77-902. Liability for certain acts. 28 29 A person shall be liable to the State of Arkansas, through the Attorney 30 General, for a civil penalty and restitution of three (3) times the amount of 31 the damages if he or she: 32 (1) Knowingly makes or causes to be made any false statement or 33 representation of a material fact in any claim, request for payment, or application for any benefit or payment under the Arkansas Medicaid Program; 34 35 (2) At any time knowingly Knowingly makes or causes to be made

any omission or false statement or representation of a material fact for use

- l in determining rights to a benefit or payment under the Arkansas Medicaid
- 2 Program;
- 3 (3) Having knowledge of the occurrence of any event affecting
- 4 his or her initial or continued right to any benefit or payment or the
- 5 initial or continued right to any benefit or payment of any other individual
- 6 in whose behalf he or she has applied for or is receiving a benefit or
- 7 payment, knowingly conceals or fails to disclose that event with an intent
- 8 fraudulently to secure the benefit or payment either in a greater amount or
- 9 quantity than is due or when no benefit or payment is authorized;
- 10 (4) Having made or submitted a claim, request for payment, or
- 11 application to receive any benefit or payment for the use and benefit of
- 12 another person and having received it, knowingly converts the benefit or
- 13 payment or any part thereof to a use other than for the use and benefit of
- 14 the other person;
- 15 (5) Knowingly presents or causes to be presented a claim for a
- 16 physician's service for which payment may be made under the program and knows
- 17 that the individual who furnished the service was not licensed as a
- 18 physician;
- 19 (6) Knowingly solicits or receives any remuneration, including
- 20 any kickback, bribe, or rebate, directly or indirectly, overtly or covertly,
- 21 in cash or in kind:
- 22 (A) In return for referring an individual to a person for
- 23 the furnishing or arranging for the furnishing of any item or service for
- 24 which payment may be made in whole or in part under the program; or
- 25 (B) In return for purchasing, leasing, ordering, or
- 26 arranging for or recommending purchasing, leasing, or ordering any good,
- 27 facility, service, or item for which payment may be made in whole or in part
- 28 under the program;
- 29 (7)(A) Knowingly offers or pays any remuneration, including any
- 30 kickback, bribe, or rebate, directly or indirectly, overtly or covertly, in
- 31 cash or in kind to any person to induce the person to:
- 32 (i) To refer Refer an individual to a person for the
- 33 furnishing or arranging for the furnishing of any item or service for which
- 34 payment may be made in whole or in part under the program; or
- 35 (ii) To purchase Purchase, lease, order, or arrange
- 36 for or recommend purchasing, leasing, or ordering any good, facility,

1 service, or item for which payment may be made in whole or in part under the 2 program. 3 (B) Subdivision (7)(A) of this section shall not apply to: 4 (i) A discount or other reduction in price obtained 5 by a provider of services or other entity under the program if the reduction 6 in price is properly disclosed and appropriately reflected in the costs 7 claimed or charges made by the provider or entity under the program; 8 (ii) Any amount paid by an employer to an employee 9 who has a bona fide employment relationship with the employer for employment in the providing of covered items or services; 10 11 (iii) Any amount paid by a vendor of goods or 12 services to a person authorized to act as a purchasing agent for a group of 13 individuals or entities who are furnishing services reimbursed under the 14 program, if: 15 The person has a written contract with 16 each individual or entity which specifies the amount to be paid to the 17 person, which amount may be a fixed amount or a fixed percentage of the value 18 of the purchases made by each individual or entity under the contract; and 19 (b) In the case of an entity that is a 20 Medicaid provider of services as defined in § 20-9-101, the person discloses, 21 in the form and manner as the Director of the Department of Human Services 22 requires, to the entity and upon request to the director the amount received 23 from each vendor with respect to purchases made by or on behalf of the 24 entity; or 25 (iv) Any payment practice specified by the director 26 promulgated pursuant to applicable federal or state law; 27 (8) Knowingly makes or causes to be made or induces or seeks to 28 induce the making of any false statement or representation of a material 29 fact: 30 (A) With respect to the conditions or operation of any 31 institution, facility, or entity in order that the institution, facility, or 32 entity may qualify either upon initial certification or upon recertification as a hospital, rural primary care hospital, skilled nursing facility, nursing 33 facility, intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual 34 disabilities, home health agency, or other entity for which certification is 35 36 required; or

1	(B) With respect to information required pursuant to
2	applicable federal and state law, rules, regulations, and provider agreements
3	any omission or false statement or representation of a material fact with
4	respect to the conditions or operation of any institution, facility, or
5	Medicaid provider in order that the institution, facility, or Medicaid
6	provider may qualify to obtain or maintain any licensure or certification
7	when the licensure or certification is required to be enrolled or eligible to
8	deliver any healthcare goods or services to Medicaid recipients by state law,
9	federal law, or the rules of the Arkansas Medicaid Program;
10	(9) Knowingly:
11	(A) Charges for any service provided to a patient under
12	the program money or other consideration at a rate in excess of the rates
13	established by the state; or
14	(B) Charges, solicits, accepts, or receives, in addition
15	to any amount otherwise required to be paid under the program, any gift,
16	money, donation, or other consideration other than a charitable, religious,
17	or philanthropic contribution from an organization or from a person unrelated
18	to the patient:
19	$\underline{\text{(i)}}$ as $\underline{\text{As}}$ a precondition of admitting a patient to a
20	hospital, nursing facility, or intermediate care facility for individuals
21	with intellectual disabilities; or
22	$\underline{\text{(ii)}}$ as $\underline{\text{As}}$ a requirement for the patient's continued
23	stay in the hospital, nursing facility, or intermediate care facility for
24	individuals with intellectual disabilities when the cost of the services
25	provided therein to the patient is paid for in whole or in part under the
26	program;
27	(10) Knowingly makes or causes to be made any omission or false
28	statement or representation of a material fact in any application for
29	benefits or for payment in violation of the rules, regulations, and provider
30	agreements issued by the program or its fiscal agents; or
31	(11) Knowingly:
32	(A) Participates, directly or indirectly, in the Arkansas
33	Medicaid Program after having pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to or been
34	found guilty of a charge of Medicaid fraud, theft of public benefits, or
35	abuse of adults as defined in the Arkansas Criminal Code, § 5-1-101 et seq.;
26	

1	(B) As a certified health provider enrolled in the
2	Arkansas Medicaid Program pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act or
3	the fiscal agent of such a provider who employs, engages as an independent
4	contractor, engages as a consultant, or otherwise permits the participation
5	in the business activities of such a provider, any person who has pleaded
6	guilty or nolo contendere to or has been found guilty of a charge of Medicaid
7	fraud, theft of public benefits, or abuse of adults as defined in the
8	Arkansas Criminal Code, § 5-1-101 et seq.;
9	(12) Knowingly submits any false documentation supporting a
10	claim or prior payment to the Office of Medicaid Inspector General or the
11	Medicaid Fraud Control Unit within the office of the Attorney General during
12	an audit or in response to a request for information or a subpoena;
13	(13) Knowingly makes or causes to be made, or induces or seeks
14	to induce, any material false statement to made to the Office of Medicaid
15	Inspector General or the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit within the office of the
16	Attorney General during an audit or in response to a request for information
17	or a subpoena;
18	(14) Knowingly forges the signature of a doctor or nurse on a
19	prescription or referral for healthcare goods or services or submits a forged
20	prescription or referral for healthcare goods or services in support of a
21	claim for payment under the Arkansas Medicaid Program;
22	(15) Knowingly places a false entry in a medical chart or
23	medical record that indicates that healthcare goods or services have been
24	provided to a Medicaid recipient knowing that the healthcare goods or
25	services were not provided;
26	(16) Knowingly presents, or causes to be presented, a false or
27	fraudulent claim for payment or approval to the Arkansas Medicaid Program;
28	(17) Knowingly makes, uses, or causes to be made or used a false
29	record or statement that is material to a false or fraudulent claim to the
30	Arkansas Medicaid Program;
31	(18) Knowingly:
32	(A) Makes, uses, or causes to be made or used a false
33	record or statement that is material to an obligation to pay or transmit
34	money or property to the Arkansas Medicaid Program; or
35	(B) Conceals or improperly avoids or decreases an
36	obligation to pay or transmit money or property to the Arkansas Medicaid

1	riogram, or
2	(19) Conspires to commit a violation of this section.
3	
4	20-77-903. Civil penalties.
5	(a) (l) It shall be unlawful for any person to commit any act
6	proscribed by § 20-77-902, and any person found to have committed any such
7	act or acts shall be deemed liable to the State of Arkansas, through the
8	Attorney General, for full restitution and for a civil penalty of not less
9	than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) and not more than ten thousand dollars
10	(\$10,000) for each violation, plus three (3) times the amount of all payments
11	judicially found to have been fraudulently received from the Arkansas
12	Medicaid Program or its fiscal agents because of the act of that person,
13	except that if the court finds the following:
14	(1) A civil penalty of not less than five thousand five hundred
15	dollars (\$5,500) or more than eleven thousand dollars (\$11,000) for each
16	claim; and
17	(2) Three (3) times the amount of damages that the state
18	sustained because of the act of the person.
19	(b) The trier of fact may assess not less than two (2) times the
20	amount of damages that the state sustained because of the act of the person
21	if the trier of fact finds the following:
22	$\frac{(A)(1)}{(A)}$ The person committing the violation of this
23	subchapter furnished officials of the Attorney General's office with all
24	information known to the person about the violation within thirty (30) days
25	after the date on which the defendant first obtained the information; and
26	$\frac{(B)(2)}{(B)}$ The person fully cooperated with any Attorney
27	General's investigation of the violation, and at the time the person
28	furnished the Attorney General with the information about the violation:
29	$\frac{(i)}{(A)}$ No criminal prosecution, civil action, or
30	administrative action had commenced under this subchapter with respect to the
31	violation; and
32	(ii)(B) The person did not have actual knowledge of
33	the existence of an investigation into the violation.
34	(2) The court may assess not more than two (2) times the amount
35	of damages which the state sustained because of the act of the person.
36	$\frac{(b)(c)(1)}{(c)(1)}$ In addition to any other penalties authorized herein, any

- l person violating this subchapter shall also be liable to the State of
- 2 Arkansas for the Attorney General's reasonable expenses, including the cost
- 3 of investigation, attorney's fees, court costs, witness fees, and deposition
- 4 fees.
- 5 (2) Any cost or reimbursement ordered under this subsection
- 6 shall be paid to the office of the Attorney General to be used for future
- 7 Medicaid investigations and cases.
- 8 (e)(d) The entirety of any penalty obtained under subsection (a) less
- 9 reimbursement of investigation and prosecution costs and any reward which may
- 10 be determined by the court pursuant to this subchapter shall be credited as
- 11 special revenues of the State of Arkansas and deposited into the Arkansas
- 12 Medicaid Program Trust Fund for the sole use of the program.
- 13 (d) For actions under this subchapter, the following shall apply:
- (1) To enable the court to properly fix the amount of
- 15 restitution, the Attorney General shall, after appropriate investigation,
- 16 recommend an amount that would make the victim whole with respect to the
- 17 money fraudulently received from the program or its fiscal agents, the
- 18 expense of investigation, and all other measurable monetary damages directly
- 19 related to the cause of action; and
- 20 (2) If the defendant disagrees with the recommendation of the
- 21 Attorney General, he or she shall be entitled to introduce evidence in
- 22 mitigation of the amount recommended.
- 23 (e) For actions under this subchapter, whether tried by the court or
- 24 the jury, the restitution and penalty shall be fixed by the court.
- 25 (e)(1) A person who engages, has engaged, or proposes to engage in any
- 26 act described by § 20-77-902 may be enjoined in a court of competent
- 27 jurisdiction in an action brought by the Attorney General.
- 28 (2) An injunction described by subdivision (e)(1) of this
- 29 section shall be:
- 30 (A) Brought in the name of the state; and
- 31 <u>(B) Granted if the a case is clearly shown that the rights</u>
- 32 of the state are being violated by the person and the state will suffer
- 33 immediate and irreparable injury, loss, or damage pending a final judgment in
- 34 the action or that the acts or omissions of the person will tend to render a
- 35 final judgment ineffectual.
- 36 (f) The court may make orders or judgments, including the appointment

1	of a receiver, as necessary to:
2	(1) Prevent any act described by § 20-77-902 by any person; or
3	(2) Restore to the Arkansas Medicaid Program any money or
4	property, real or personal, that may have been acquired by means of an act
5	described by § 20-77-902.
6	
7	SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 20-77-904(c)(1), concerning investigation
8	by the Attorney General under the Medicaid Fraud False Claims Act, is amended
9	to read as follows:
10	(1) Adjudging the person in contempt of court and exercising any
11	civil contempt power available under state law;
12	
13	SECTION 10. Arkansas Code § 20-77-907(a), concerning records under the
14	Medicaid Fraud False Claims Act, is amended to read as follows:
15	(a)(l) All persons A Medicaid provider or person providing healthcare
16	goods or services under the Arkansas Medicaid Program are required to
17	maintain at the person's principal place of Medicaid business all records at
18	least for a period of <u>not less than</u> five (5) years from the date of claimed
19	provision of any goods or services to any Medicaid recipient.
20	(2)(A) Any person found not to have maintained all records shall
21	be guilty of a Class D felony if the unavailability of records impairs or
22	obstructs a civil action pursuant to this subchapter.
23	(B) Otherwise, the unavailability of records shall be a
24	Class A misdemeanor.
25	(2) The records described in subdivision (a)(1) of this section
26	shall be available for audit during regular business hours at the address
27	listed in the Medicaid provider agreement or where the healthcare goods or
28	services are provided.
29	(3) If the healthcare goods or services are provided in the home
30	of the Medicaid recipient, the records shall be maintained at the principal
31	place of business of the Medicaid provider.
32	(4) If a Medicaid provider goes out of business, the provider
33	shall give written notification to the Department of Human Services and the
34	Office of Medicaid Inspector General of where and how the records will be
35	stored.

1	SECTION 11. Arkansas Code § 20-77-908(a) and (b), concerning the false
2	claims jurisdiction and procedure under the Medicaid Fraud False Claims Act,
3	is amended to read as follows:
4	(a) Any action under this subchapter may be brought in the circuit
5	court of $\underline{\text{Pulaski County or}}$ the county where the defendant, or in the case of
6	multiple defendants, any one (1) defendant resides.
7	(b) A civil action under this section may not be brought:
8	(1) more More than five (5) six (6) years after the date on
9	which the violation of this subchapter is committed; or
10	(2) More than three (3) years after the date when facts material
11	to the right of action are known or reasonably should have been known by the
12	official of the state charged with responsibility to act in the
13	circumstances, but in no event more than ten (10) years after the date on
14	which the violation is committed, whichever occurs last.
15	
16	SECTION 12. Arkansas Code § 20-77-2502(3), concerning the definition
17	of "health plan" regarding the Office of Medicaid Inspector General, is
18	amended to read as follows:
19	(3) "Health plan" means a publicly or privately funded health
20	insurance or managed care plan or contract under which a healthcare item or
21	service is provided and through which payment is made to the person who
22	provided the healthcare item or service program or organization that is
23	formed to provide or pay for healthcare goods or services including without
24	limitation:
25	(A) Health insurance plans;
26	(B) Managed care organization plans;
27	(C) Risk-based provider plans;
28	(D) Arkansas Medicaid Program;
29	(E) The Social Security Disability Insurance program; and
30	(F) Medicare program;
31	
32	SECTION 13. Arkansas Code § 20-77-2502(7), concerning the definition
33	of "single health plan" regarding the Office of Medicaid Inspector General,
34	is repealed.
35	(7) "Single health plan" includes without limitation the
26	Arkengaa Madiaaid Dragrams and