

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 94th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2023  
4

As Engrossed: S4/3/23 H4/5/23

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 181

5 By: Senator K. Hammer  
6 By: Representative Warren  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO MANDATE COVERAGE FOR USE OF INTRAVENOUS  
10 IMMUNOGLOBULIN TO TREAT PEDIATRIC ACUTE-ONSET  
11 NEUROPSYCHIATRIC SYNDROME OR PEDIATRIC AUTOIMMUNE  
12 NEUROPSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS ASSOCIATED WITH  
13 STREPTOCOCCAL INFECTION; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND  
14 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

18 TO MANDATE COVERAGE FOR USE OF  
19 INTRAVENOUS IMMUNOGLOBULIN TO TREAT  
20 CERTAIN PEDIATRIC DISORDERS CAUSED BY  
21 INFECTIONS; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.  
22  
23

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

26 *SECTION 1. Effective January 1, 2024, Arkansas Code § 23-79-1903 is*  
27 *repealed.*

28 ~~*23-79-1903. Arkansas PANS/PANDAS Advisory Council—Creation—*~~  
29 ~~*Membership—Duties.*~~

30 ~~*(a) There is created the Arkansas PANS/PANDAS Advisory Council to*~~  
31 ~~*consist of the following members:*~~

32 ~~*(1) Two (2) members of the House of Representatives appointed by*~~  
33 ~~*the Speaker of the House of Representatives;*~~

34 ~~*(2) Two (2) members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro*~~  
35 ~~*Tempore of the Senate;*~~

36 ~~*(3) One (1) member who is a medical professional with two (2)*~~



1 ~~years of professional experience working with PANS/PANDAS patients, appointed~~  
2 ~~by the Governor;~~

3 ~~(4) One (1) member who is a medical professional with two (2)~~  
4 ~~years of professional experience working with PANS/PANDAS patients, appointed~~  
5 ~~by the council;~~

6 ~~(5) The Secretary of the Department of Health or his or her~~  
7 ~~designee, serving as an ex officio nonvoting member;~~

8 ~~(6) The Insurance Commissioner or his or her designee, serving~~  
9 ~~as an ex officio nonvoting member;~~

10 ~~(7) Three (3) members appointed by the Governor who are employed~~  
11 ~~by a public school district, one (1) member to be a public school nurse, one~~  
12 ~~(1) member to be a public school counselor, and one (1) member to be a public~~  
13 ~~school teacher;~~

14 ~~(8) One (1) member who is designated by the Arkansas Hospital~~  
15 ~~Association, Inc.;~~

16 ~~(9) One (1) member who is designated by the Arkansas State Board~~  
17 ~~of Nursing;~~

18 ~~(10) One (1) member who is designated by the Arkansas~~  
19 ~~Pharmacist's Association;~~

20 ~~(11) One (1) member who is designated by the American Academy of~~  
21 ~~Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology;~~

22 ~~(12) Two (2) members who are parents, appointed by the Governor;~~  
23 ~~and~~

24 ~~(13) One (1) member who is designated by the Arkansas Medical,~~  
25 ~~Dental, and Pharmaceutical Association, Inc.~~

26 ~~(b)(1) Upon appointment to the council, the initial members shall draw~~  
27 ~~lots to determine the length of their terms.~~

28 ~~(2) Appointments shall be for a term of four (4) years.~~

29 ~~(3) Vacancies on the council shall be filled in the same manner~~  
30 ~~as provided for the initial appointment.~~

31 ~~(4) The new appointee shall serve for the remainder of the~~  
32 ~~unexpired term.~~

33 ~~(c) Members shall serve at the pleasure of the organizations they~~  
34 ~~represent or of the Governor, as indicated.~~

35 ~~(d)(1) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall appoint the Chair~~  
36 ~~of the Arkansas PANS/PANDAS Advisory Council who shall be one (1) of the~~

1 ~~legislative members of the council.~~

2 ~~(2) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint~~  
3 ~~the Vice Chair of the Arkansas PANS/PANDAS Advisory Council who shall be one~~  
4 ~~(1) of the legislative members of the council.~~

5 ~~(e)(1) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.~~

6 ~~(2) A majority vote of those members present shall be required~~  
7 ~~for any action of the council.~~

8 ~~(f)(1) The council shall meet as often as is deemed necessary by the~~  
9 ~~chair.~~

10 ~~(2) The council shall meet at the State Capitol Building in~~  
11 ~~Little Rock, Arkansas.~~

12 ~~(g) Legislators shall be paid per diem and mileage as authorized by~~  
13 ~~law for attendance at meetings of interim committees of the General Assembly.~~

14 ~~(h)(1) The council shall receive staff support from the Bureau of~~  
15 ~~Legislative Research.~~

16 ~~(2) The council shall receive assistance from the Children's~~  
17 ~~Postinfectious Autoimmune Encephalopathy Center of Excellence at the~~  
18 ~~University of Arizona Steele Children's Research Center with the preparation~~  
19 ~~of any reports required by this subchapter.~~

20 ~~(i) The council may:~~

21 ~~(1) Make recommendations designed to improve and increase~~  
22 ~~knowledge and develop mechanisms to increase clinical awareness and treatment~~  
23 ~~throughout the state for pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome,~~  
24 ~~also known as "PANS", and pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders~~  
25 ~~associated with streptococcal infections, also known as "PANDAS", especially~~  
26 ~~for healthcare professionals;~~

27 ~~(2) Operate along with the interdisciplinary panel on~~  
28 ~~PANS/PANDAS at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences to determine~~  
29 ~~quarterly information, including case statistics, outcome measures, and other~~  
30 ~~relevant information;~~

31 ~~(3) Make recommendations concerning standard practice guidelines~~  
32 ~~for the diagnosis and treatment of PANS/PANDAS for adult and pediatric~~  
33 ~~patients who have been diagnosed with PANS/PANDAS;~~

34 ~~(4) Provide outreach to educators and parents;~~

35 ~~(5) Develop a network of volunteer experts on PANS/PANDAS to~~  
36 ~~serve as resources within this state; and~~

1 ~~(6) Consider any related topics associated with the council's~~  
2 ~~charge.~~

3 ~~(j)(1) The council shall report to the Senate Committee on Insurance~~  
4 ~~and Commerce, the House Committee on Insurance and Commerce, the Senate~~  
5 ~~Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor, and the House Committee on~~  
6 ~~Public Health, Welfare, and Labor, as requested.~~

7 ~~(2) The report described in subdivision (j)(1) of this section~~  
8 ~~shall be submitted to the Legislative Council for final review.~~

9  
10 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 23-79-1904 is repealed.

11 ~~23-79-1904. Sunset.~~

12 ~~This subchapter shall expire on December 31, 2023, unless extended by~~  
13 ~~the General Assembly.~~

14  
15 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 23-79-1905 is amended to read as follows:

16 23-79-1905. Off-label use and coverage of drug treatment to treat  
17 pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome and pediatric autoimmune  
18 neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infection –  
19 Legislative findings – Definitions.

20 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

21 (1) Pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome, also known  
22 as “PANS”, is a clinically defined disorder characterized by the sudden onset  
23 of obsessive-compulsive symptoms or eating restrictions, accompanied by two  
24 (2) or more symptoms of acute behavioral deterioration or motor and sensory  
25 changes, or both;

26 (2) Pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated  
27 with streptococcal infection, also known as “PANDAS”, is a term used to  
28 describe a subset of symptoms affecting children and adolescents within the  
29 broader PANS classification;

30 (3) Other states may require coverage for off-label use of drug  
31 treatments to treat pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome and  
32 pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal  
33 infection; and

34 (4) Arkansas does not require coverage for off-label use of drug  
35 treatments to treat patients who are diagnosed with pediatric acute-onset  
36 neuropsychiatric syndrome and pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders

1 associated with streptococcal infections.

2 (b) As used in this section:

3 (1)(A) "Health benefit plan" means an individual, blanket, or  
4 any group plan, policy, or contract for healthcare services issued, renewed,  
5 or extended in this state by a healthcare insurer, health maintenance  
6 organization, hospital medical service corporation, or self-insured  
7 governmental or church plan in this state.

8 (B) "Health benefit plan" includes:

9 (i) A plan offered by a risk-based provider  
10 organization as established under the Medicaid Provider-Led Organized Care  
11 Act, § 20-77-2701 et seq.;

12 (ii) Indemnity and managed care plans; and

13 (iii) Plans providing health benefits to state and  
14 public school employees under § 21-5-401 et seq.

15 (C) "Health benefit plan" does not include:

16 (i) A plan that provides only dental benefits or eye  
17 and vision care benefits;

18 (ii) A disability income plan;

19 (iii) A credit insurance plan;

20 (iv) Insurance coverage issued as a supplement to  
21 liability insurance;

22 (v) Medical payments under an automobile or  
23 homeowners insurance plan;

24 (vi) A health benefit plan provided under Arkansas  
25 Constitution, Article 5, § 32, the Workers' Compensation Law, § 11-9-101 et  
26 seq., and the Public Employee Workers' Compensation Act, § 21-5-601 et seq.;

27 (vii) A plan that provides only indemnity for  
28 hospital confinement;

29 (viii) An accident-only plan; or

30 (ix) A specified disease plan; and

31 (2)(A) "Healthcare insurer" means any insurance company,  
32 hospital and medical service corporation, or health maintenance organization  
33 that issues or delivers health benefit plans in this state and is subject to  
34 any of the following laws:

35 (i) The insurance laws of this state;

36 (ii) Section 23-75-101 et seq., pertaining to

1 hospital and medical service corporations;

2 (iii) Section 23-76-101 et seq., pertaining to  
3 health maintenance organizations; or

4 (iv) A risk-based provider organization established  
5 under the Medicaid Provider-Led Organized Care Act, § 20-77-2701 et seq.

6 (B) "Healthcare insurer" does not include an entity that  
7 provides only dental benefits or eye and vision care benefits.

8 (c)(1) A Except as provided in subsection (f) of this section, a  
9 health benefit plan that is offered, issued, or renewed in this state,  
10 including a plan offered by a risk-based provider organization established  
11 under the Medicaid Provider-Led Organized Care Act, § 20-77-2701 et seq.,  
12 shall provide coverage for off-label use of intravenous immunoglobulin, also  
13 known as "IVIG", to treat individuals diagnosed with pediatric acute-onset  
14 neuropsychiatric syndrome or pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders  
15 associated with streptococcal infection, or both, on or after January 1,  
16 2022, under a patient-specific treatment plan ~~established by the Childhood~~  
17 ~~Post-infectious Autoimmune Encephalopathy Clinic established by the~~  
18 ~~University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in collaboration with Arkansas~~  
19 ~~Children's Hospital~~ consistent with established protocols and rules to be  
20 developed by the Insurance Commissioner, in consultation with the Childhood  
21 Post-infectious Autoimmune Encephalopathy Center of Excellence.

22 (2) Rules to implement this subdivision have to be promulgated  
23 by August 31, 2023.

24 (d) The coverage for ~~off-label~~ use of drug treatment to treat  
25 pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome and pediatric autoimmune  
26 neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infection under this  
27 section:

28 (1) May be subject to policy deductions or copayment  
29 requirements ~~and any standard prior authorization review~~ of a healthcare  
30 insurer or a health benefit plan; and

31 (2) Does not diminish or limit benefits otherwise allowable  
32 under a health benefit plan.

33 (e) The Insurance Commissioner shall develop and promulgate rules for  
34 the implementation and administration of this section.

35 (f)(1)(A) A health benefit plan that is offered, issued, or renewed in  
36 this state shall provide coverage for the use of intravenous immunoglobulin

1 to treat individuals diagnosed with pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric  
2 syndrome or pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with  
3 streptococcal infection, or both, on or after January 1, 2024, if the  
4 pediatric patient's primary care physician, in consultation with an Arkansas  
5 licensed pediatric psychiatrist and an Arkansas licensed physician who  
6 practices in at least one (1) pediatric subspecialty, including a  
7 neurologist, rheumatologist, or infectious disease physician who has treated  
8 the pediatric patient determines and agrees that the treatment is necessary  
9 and follows a patient-specific treatment plan.

10 (B) A primary care physician may continue to consult with  
11 the Childhood Post-infectious Autoimmune Encephalopathy Center of Excellence.

12 (C) The appeal process for a denial of coverage or adverse  
13 determination under this subdivision (f)(1):

14 (i) Shall align with the normal appeal process of  
15 any other type of denial under the health benefit plan; and

16 (ii) Applies to all health benefit plans.

17 (2) Upon approval by the United States Food and Drug  
18 Administration of the use of intravenous immunoglobulin to treat individuals  
19 diagnosed with pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome or pediatric  
20 autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal  
21 infection, or both, the Insurance Commissioner, with consultation and upon  
22 approval of the Arkansas State Medical Board and the Arkansas State Board of  
23 Pharmacy, shall adopt by rule a written statewide protocol that provides  
24 clarification that the consultation required under subdivision (f)(1) of this  
25 section and the patient-specific treatment plan required under subsection (c)  
26 of this section are no longer required for coverage under a health benefit  
27 plan.

28 (g) A primary care physician who prescribes intravenous immunoglobulin  
29 to treat individuals diagnosed with pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric  
30 syndrome or pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with  
31 streptococcal infection, or both, shall report the data to the Childhood  
32 Post-infectious Autoimmune Encephalopathy Center of Excellence.

33  
34 SECTION 4. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
35 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that certain children in this state  
36 who are diagnosed with pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome or

1 pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal  
2 infection, or both, are receiving limited treatment options; that requiring  
3 healthcare insurers to provide coverage of intravenous immunoglobulin, also  
4 known as "IVIG", to treat individuals diagnosed with pediatric acute-onset  
5 neuropsychiatric syndrome or pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders  
6 associated with streptococcal infection, or both, could alleviate some  
7 symptoms; and that this act is immediately necessary to ensure that children  
8 receive the greatest chance to be healthy and live productive lives.  
9 Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately  
10 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall  
11 become effective on:

12 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

13 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,  
14 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the  
15 bill; or

16 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is  
17 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

18  
19 SECTION 5. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. Rules.

20 (a) The Insurance Commissioner, in consultation with the Staff of the  
21 Childhood Post-infectious Autoimmune Encephalopathy Center of Excellence,  
22 shall promulgate rules necessary to implement Section 3 of this act.

23 (b)(1) When adopting the initial rules to implement this act, the  
24 final rule shall be filed with the Secretary of State for adoption under §  
25 25-15-204(f):

26 (A) On or before August 31, 2023; or

27 (B) If approval under § 10-3-309 has not occurred by  
28 August 31, 2023, as soon as practicable after approval under § 10-3-309.

29 (2) The commissioner shall file the proposed rule with the  
30 Legislative Council under § 10-3-309(c) sufficiently in advance of August 31,  
31 2023, so that the Legislative Council may consider the rule for approval  
32 before August 31, 2023.

33  
34 /s/K. Hammer