

1 State of Arkansas  
2 95th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2025  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1186

5 By: Representative Vaught  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO CREATE THE PAIN RELIEF PARITY ACT; TO  
9 REQUIRE PAIN RELIEF PARITY IN THE ARKANSAS MEDICAID  
10 PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

13 TO CREATE THE PAIN RELIEF PARITY ACT;  
14 AND TO REQUIRE PAIN RELIEF PARITY IN THE  
15 ARKANSAS MEDICAID PROGRAM.  
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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21 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. TITLE.

22 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Pain Relief Parity  
23 Act".  
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25 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 77, Subchapter 4, is  
26 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

27 20-77-408. Medicaid pain relief parity.

28 (a) In establishing and maintaining the formulary and preferred drug  
29 list for the Arkansas Medicaid Program, the Department of Human Services  
30 shall ensure that a non-opioid drug approved by the United States Food and  
31 Drug Administration for the treatment or management of pain shall not be  
32 disadvantaged or discouraged with respect to coverage relative to any opioid  
33 or narcotic drug for the treatment or management of pain on the formulary and  
34 preferred drug list, including without limitation:

35 (1) Designating any non-opioid drug as a non-preferred drug if  
36 any opioid or narcotic drug is designated as a preferred drug; or



1           (2) Establishing more restrictive or more extensive utilization  
2 controls, including without limitation more restrictive or more extensive  
3 prior authorization or step therapy requirements, for a non-opioid drug than  
4 the least restrictive or extensive utilization controls applicable to any  
5 opioid or narcotic drug.

6           (b) This section shall apply to:

7           (1) A non-opioid drug immediately upon approval by the United  
8 States Food and Drug Administration for the treatment or management of pain,  
9 regardless of whether the non-opioid drug has been reviewed by the department  
10 for inclusion on the formulary and preferred drug list; and

11           (2) A drug being provided under a contract between the  
12 department and a managed care organization.

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