

State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H3/31/25 H4/9/25*

95th General Assembly

## A Bill

Regular Session, 2025

HOUSE BILL 1332

By: Representative Pilkington

By: Senator J. Scott

### For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE ARKANSAS MEDICAID PROGRAM TO  
EVALUATE CLAIMS FOR DIAGNOSES FREQUENCY OF OBESITY-  
RELATED CONDITIONS AND PRESENT THE COSTS; TO ALLOW  
HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS TO OFFER OPTIONAL COVERAGE OF  
UNITED STATES FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION-APPROVED  
ANTI-OBESITY MEDICATION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

TO REQUIRE THE ARKANSAS MEDICAID PROGRAM  
TO EVALUATE CLAIMS FOR DIAGNOSES  
FREQUENCY OF OBESITY-RELATED CONDITIONS  
AND PRESENT THE COSTS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 77, Subchapter 154, is  
amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

20-77-154. Obesity-related conditions.

(a) The Department of Human Services shall evaluate claims level data  
for diagnoses frequency of obesity-related conditions including without  
limitation Type 2 diabetes, pre-diabetes, cardiovascular disease, heart  
failure, hypertension, chronic kidney disease, metabolic dysfunction-  
associates steatohepatitis, liver disease, obstructive sleep apnea,  
osteoarthritis, and other obesity-related conditions within the Medicaid  
population.

(b) The department shall document the cost of these obesity-related  
conditions and show trend data, year over year of the rising trends of both



the diagnoses frequency and cost to the state to present at least sixty (60) days before a regular or fiscal legislative session to the:

(1) House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor; and

(2) Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 23, Chapter 79, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

23-79-169. Optional coverage for United States Food and Drug Administration-approved anti-obesity medications – Definition.

(a) As used in this section, "United States Food and Drug Administration-approved anti-obesity medication" means a medication approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration with an indication for weight management in patients with chronic obesity.

(b)(1) A health benefit plan that is offered, issued, or renewed in this state shall allow the policyholder the option to purchase coverage for United States Food and Drug Administration-approved anti-obesity medications.

(2) The health benefit plan may adopt standards and criteria that a covered person shall meet to be eligible for United States Food and Drug Administration-approved anti-obesity medications consistent with standards established by rule of the State Insurance Department.

(c) Subsection (b) of this section does not apply to a government self-insured plan.

/s/Pilkington