

1 State of Arkansas As Engrossed: H1/28/25 H2/12/25 S3/5/25

2 95th General Assembly

A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2025

HOUSE BILL 1186

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5 By: Representative Vaught

6 By: Senator C. Penzo

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For An Act To Be Entitled

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AN ACT TO CREATE THE PAIN RELIEF PARITY ACT; TO

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REQUIRE PAIN RELIEF PARITY IN THE ARKANSAS MEDICAID

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PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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Subtitle

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TO CREATE THE PAIN RELIEF PARITY ACT;

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AND TO REQUIRE PAIN RELIEF PARITY IN THE

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ARKANSAS MEDICAID PROGRAM.

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

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SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. TITLE.

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This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Pain Relief Parity

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Act".

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SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 77, Subchapter 4, is

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amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

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20-77-408. Medicaid pain relief parity.

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In establishing and maintaining the formulary and preferred drug list

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for the Arkansas Medicaid Program, the Department of Human Services shall

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ensure that a non-opioid drug approved by the United States Food and Drug

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Administration with no therapeutic equivalent for the treatment or management

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of pain shall not be disadvantaged or discouraged with respect to coverage

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relative to any opioid or narcotic drug for the treatment or management of

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pain on the formulary and preferred drug list, including without limitation:

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(1) Designating any non-opioid drug as a non-preferred drug if

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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 applicable to any opioid or narcotic drug.

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