

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1559

By: Representative McGrew
By: Senator J. Boyd

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO
SEEK A WAIVER TO THE ARKANSAS MEDICAID PROGRAM FOR
COVERAGE FOR INPATIENT TREATMENT SERVICES FOR
SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
SERVICES TO SEEK A WAIVER TO THE
ARKANSAS MEDICAID PROGRAM FOR COVERAGE
FOR INPATIENT TREATMENT SERVICES FOR
SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS.

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

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

20-77-154. Inpatient treatment for substance use disorder –
Legislative findings.

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Substance use disorder is a significant public health
concern in this state;

(2) Inpatient treatment for substance use disorders is an
essential component of comprehensive care;

(3) Currently, inpatient treatment for substance use disorder is
primarily funded through federal block grants; and

(4) Expanding coverage in the Arkansas Medicaid Program for
inpatient treatment for substance use disorder could improve access to care



1 and patient outcomes in this state.

2 (b) The Department of Human Services shall:

3 (1)(A) Develop and submit an application to the Centers of
4 Medicare & Medicaid Services for a demonstration waiver under section 1115 of
5 the Social Security Act, as in effect January 1, 2025, for exclusion of
6 institutions for mental diseases for inpatient treatment services of
7 substance use disorder within the program.

8 (B) The application described in subdivision (b)(1)(A) of
9 this section shall:

10 (i) Allow coverage for inpatient treatment of
11 substance use disorder in facilities that qualify as institutions for mental
12 diseases;

13 (ii) Expand access to medication-assisted treatment
14 for opioid use disorder;

15 (iii) Improve care coordination for beneficiaries
16 with substance use disorder; and

17 (iv) Develop intensive outpatient services designed
18 to reduce the need for inpatient treatment services;

19 (2) Consult with relevant stakeholders, including substance use
20 disorder treatment providers, patient advocacy groups, and behavioral health
21 experts in developing the waiver application described in subdivision
22 (b)(1)(A) of this section;

23 (3) Implement expanded coverage and services as authorized and
24 approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services; and

25 (4) Report annually to the General Assembly on the status of the
26 waiver application described under subdivision (b)(1)(A) of this section, the
27 implementation progress, and outcomes of the expanded coverage.

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30 **APPROVED: 4/16/25**