

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

95th General Assembly

A Bill

Regular Session, 2025

HOUSE BILL 1186

By: Representative Vaught

By: Senator C. Penzo

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE PAIN RELIEF PARITY ACT; TO
REQUIRE PAIN RELIEF PARITY IN THE ARKANSAS MEDICAID
PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE PAIN RELIEF PARITY ACT;
AND TO REQUIRE PAIN RELIEF PARITY IN THE
ARKANSAS MEDICAID PROGRAM.

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

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. TITLE.

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

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 77, Subchapter 4, is
amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

20-77-408. Medicaid pain relief parity.

In establishing and maintaining the formulary and preferred drug list
for the Arkansas Medicaid Program, the Department of Human Services shall
ensure that a non-opioid drug approved by the United States Food and Drug
Administration with no therapeutic equivalent for the treatment or management
of pain shall not be disadvantaged or discouraged with respect to coverage
relative to any opioid or narcotic drug for the treatment or management of
pain on the formulary and preferred drug list, including without limitation:

(1) Designating any non-opioid drug as a non-preferred drug if
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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6 */s/Vaught*
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9 **APPROVED: 4/21/25**
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