

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to law as it existed prior to the 82nd General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 82nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1999
4

A Bill

Act 849 of 1999
SENATE BILL 684

5 By: Senators Argue, Webb, Bradford, Edwards, Harriman, Kennedy, K. Smith, Beebe, Everett, D.
6 Malone, Fitch, Russ, Riggs, B. Walker, Walters, Wooldridge, Brown, Scott
7 By: Representatives T. Thomas, Gipson, Horn, Davis, M. Steele, Allison, Ferrell, Gillespie, Haak, Carson,
8 Lavery, Faris, Wilkinson, P. Malone, Kidd, Judy, T. Smith, Jones, Napper, Bennett, Salmon, Eason, T.
9 Steele, Bevis, Hale, Willis, Scrimshire, King, J. Jeffress, Hickinbotham, Hunt, Cook, Ammons, Rodgers,
10 Biggs, Sheppard, C. Johnson, Jacobs, Ferguson, Creekmore, Hathorn
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For An Act To Be Entitled

13 "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ARKIDS FIRST PROGRAM TO
14 PROVIDE HEALTH CARE FOR CHILDREN UP TO TWO HUNDRED
15 PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINE; AND FOR
16 OTHER PURPOSES. "
17
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Subtitle

19 "TO ESTABLISH THE ARKIDS FIRST PROGRAM TO
20 PROVIDE HEALTH CARE FOR CHILDREN UP TO
21 TWO HUNDRED PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL
22 POVERTY GUIDELINE. "
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26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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28 SECTION 1. This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "ARKids
29 First Program Act."
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31 SECTION 2. The purpose and intent of this program is to establish a
32 program to provide access to appropriate health care services for eligible
33 children in Arkansas.
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35 SECTION 3. For purposes of this Act:

36 (1) "Health Care Coverage" means health care insurance as defined by

1 rules promulgated by the Arkansas Department of Human Services for the ARKIds
2 First program; and

3 (2) "Family" means a family as defined in the Medical Services Program
4 policy manual.

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6 SECTION 4. The Department of Human Services has obtained a waiver from
7 the Health Care Financing Administration to create and administer the ARKIds
8 First program. The department shall administer and promulgate rules for the
9 ARKIds First program in conformity with a Medicaid waiver and in a manner
10 that:

11 (1) Defines the population which may receive services provided or
12 reimbursed through this program by limiting the program to children eighteen
13 (18) years of age or less without health care coverage who are members of a
14 family with a gross family income not exceeding two hundred percent (200%) of
15 the federal poverty guideline. No person enrolled in the full Medicaid
16 program may be concurrently enrolled in the ARKIds First program, except as
17 required by federal law.

18 (2) Defines health care coverage as health care insurance regulated by
19 the Arkansas Insurance Department, specifically including group and employer
20 sponsored health insurance plans. The Department may by rule exclude other
21 plans or coverage from the definition of health care coverage.

22 (3) Provides for the automatic assignment of medical payments due as
23 set out in Arkansas Code 20-77-302 and 20-77-308 as a condition of eligibility
24 for benefits under the uninsured children's program.

25 (4) Defines the services to be covered under the ARKIds First program.
26 Providers of covered services shall be those providers enrolled as Medicaid
27 providers, and reimbursement shall be at the rates established by ARKIds
28 First.

29 (5) Establishes a copayment for services received in the ARKIds First
30 program as permitted by Medicaid waiver and determined through promulgated
31 rules.

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33 SECTION 5. (a) Funding for the uninsured children's program shall be
34 derived from funds as may be provided by the General Assembly, copayments, and
35 any federal matching funds available to the program.

36 (b) It is further the intent of this act that funds appropriated by the

1 General Assembly for the purpose of funding the uninsured children's program
2 be used where appropriate and practical to match federal funding sources to
3 enhance the total available funding for the operation of the uninsured
4 children's program.

5 (c) The ARKids First program shall operate only if funds are available
6 for its operation.

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8 SECTION 6. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
9 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
10 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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12 SECTION 7. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
13 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
14 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
15 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
16 act are declared to be severable.

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18 SECTION 8. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
19 hereby repealed.

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22 APPROVED: 3/24/1999
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