

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: S2/22/01 S3/1/01

2 83rd General Assembly

A Bill

Act 747 of 2001

3 Regular Session, 2001

HOUSE BILL 1562

4

5 By: Representatives T. Steele, Borhauer, Bradford, J. Elliott, Gillespie, Goss, Green, House, C. Johnson,
6 Jones, Judy, Lendall, Lewellen, Rodgers, Salmon, Thomas, Trammell

7 By: *Senators B. Walker, Gullett, Wilkins*

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10 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

11 AN ACT TO PROVIDE MENTAL HEALTH PARITY FOR CHILDREN
12 COVERED BY THE ARKIDS FIRST PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER
13 PURPOSES.

14

15

Subtitle

16

AN ACT TO PROVIDE MENTAL HEALTH PARITY
17 FOR CHILDREN COVERED BY THE ARKIDS FIRST
18 PROGRAM.

19

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

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23 SECTION 1 Arkansas Code 20-77-1104 is amended to read as follows:
24 20-77-1104. Waiver - Rules.

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26 The Department of Human Services has obtained a waiver from the Health
27 Care Financing Administration to create and administer the ARKIDS First
28 Program. The department shall administer and promulgate rules for the program
29 in conformity with a Medicaid waiver and in a manner that:

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31 (1)(A) Defines the population which may receive services provided or
32 reimbursed through this program by limiting the program to children eighteen
33 (18) years of age or younger without health care coverage who are members of a
34 family with a gross family income not exceeding two hundred percent (200%) of
35 the federal poverty guidelines.

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1 (2) Defines health care coverage as health care insurance regulated by
2 the State Insurance Department, specifically including group and employer-
3 sponsored health insurance plans. The Department of Human Services may by rule
4 exclude other plans or coverage from the definition of health care coverage;

5 (3) Provides for the automatic assignment of medical payments due as
6 set out in §§ 20-77-302 and 20-77-307 as a condition of eligibility for
7 benefits under the uninsured children's program;

8 (4)(A) Defines the services to be covered under the program, which
9 shall include parity for outpatient mental health care.

10 (B) As used in subdivision (4)(A), "Parity for mental health
11 care" means coverage for the diagnosis and mental health treatment of mental
12 illnesses and the mental health treatment of those with developmental
13 disorders under the same terms and conditions as provided for covered benefits
14 offered under the program for the treatment of other medical illnesses or
15 conditions and with no differences in the program in regard to any of the
16 following:

17 (i) The duration or frequency of coverage;

18 (ii) The dollar amount of coverage; or

19 (iii) Financial requirements.

20 ~~(B)(C)~~ *Providers of covered services shall be those providers*
21 *enrolled as Medicaid providers, and reimbursement shall be at the rates*
22 *established by the program; and enrolled as Medicaid providers, and*
23 *reimbursement shall be at the rates established by the program; and*

24 (5) Establishes a copayment for services received in the program as
25 permitted by Medicaid waiver and as determined through promulgated rules.

26 /s/ T. Steele

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29 APPROVED: 3/13/2001