

**ARKANSAS SENATE**  
95th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2025  
**Amendment Form**

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**Subtitle of House Bill 1424**

TO MANDATE COVERAGE FOR SEVERE OBESITY TREATMENTS.

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**Amendment No. 1 to House Bill 1424**

Amend House Bill 1424 as engrossed H2/27/25 (version: 2/27/25 11:13:06 AM):

Page 3, delete lines 33 through 36, and substitute the following:

"(1)(A) Bariatric surgery as recognized by the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery.

(B) Bariatric surgery under subdivision (b)(1)(A) of this section shall be limited to the following:

(i) Biliopancreatic bypass with duodenal switch;

(ii) Laparoscopic adjustable gastric banding;

(iii) Roux-en-Y procedure; and

(iv) Sleeve gastrectomy;

(2) Revision bariatric surgery when required to manage a complication resulting from a prior bariatric surgery type as provided in subdivision (b)(1) of this section that utilizes a different procedure from those procedures listed in subdivision (b)(1) of this section;

(3) Preoperative care, including without limitation:"

AND

Page 4, delete lines 4 through 6, and substitute the following:

"(D) Exercise or physical therapy and counseling; and

(4) Post-operative care, including without limitation:"

AND



Page 4, delete lines 10 and 11, and substitute the following:

"(D) Exercise or physical therapy and counseling; and"

AND

Page 4, delete lines 13 through 18, and substitute the following:

"(c) For a covered person to qualify for coverage under this section:

(1) A healthcare provider shall issue a written order that includes a statement that:

(A) Identifies the body mass index and any associated comorbid conditions;

(B) Describes the treatment plan for diseases and conditions caused by severe obesity; and

(C) Attests that the treatment is medically necessary for the covered person according to the qualifications and treatment standards established by the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery or the American College of Surgeons;

(2) The covered person shall attest that he or she has:

(A) Participated in a weight loss program;

(B) Received preoperative medical and mental health evaluations and clearances;

(C) Received preoperative education that addresses the risks, benefits, realistic expectations, and the need for long-term follow-up and adherence to behavioral modifications; and

(D) Received a copy of the treatment plan that describes the preoperative needs and postoperative needs of an individual undergoing bariatric surgery;

(3) In lieu of the list of requirements in subdivision (c)(2) of this section, a covered person may attest to the completion of a multidisciplinary surgical preparation program that is also signed by the healthcare provider; and

(4) Cannot have undergone a bariatric surgery previously, unless the proposed bariatric surgery is to correct a complication that resulted from the previous bariatric surgery."

AND

Page 5, line 8, delete "The Insurance" and substitute "(a) The Insurance"

AND

Page 5, delete line 13, and substitute the following:

"associated comorbidities and for coverage requirements.

(b) If the commissioner promulgates rules under subsection (a) of this section, the rules shall include without"

The Amendment was read the first time, rules suspended and read the second time and \_\_\_\_\_

By: Senator B. Johnson

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Secretary