

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2023-131

State of Arkansas  
94th General Assembly

**A Bill**

JMB/JMB  
HOUSE BILL

By: Representative Pilkington

Filed with: House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor  
pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

**For An Act To Be Entitled**

AN ACT TO INCREASE ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE SERVICES  
PROVIDED BY ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES; TO  
AMEND THE PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY OF AN ADVANCED  
PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

**Subtitle**

TO INCREASE ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE  
SERVICES PROVIDED BY ADVANCED PRACTICE  
REGISTERED NURSES; AND TO AMEND THE  
PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY OF AN ADVANCED  
PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-87-310(a) and (b), concerning the  
prescriptive authority of an advanced practice registered nurse, are amended  
to read as follows:

(a) The Arkansas State Board of Nursing may grant a certificate of  
prescriptive authority to an advanced practice registered nurse who:

(1) Submits proof of successful completion of an Arkansas State  
Board of Nursing-approved advanced pharmacology course that shall include  
preceptorial experience in the prescription of drugs, medicines, and  
therapeutic devices; and

(2) Has either:

1 (A) A certificate of full independent practice authority  
2 under § 17-87-314; or

3 (B) A collaborative practice agreement with a ~~practicing~~  
4 ~~physician who is licensed under the Arkansas Medical Practices Act, § 17-95-~~  
5 ~~201 et seq., § 17-95-301 et seq., and § 17-95-401 et seq., or a podiatrist~~  
6 ~~licensed by the Arkansas Board of Podiatric Medicine under § 17-96-101 et~~  
7 ~~seq., if employed by the podiatrist, and one of the following healthcare~~  
8 ~~professionals who has training in scope, specialty, or expertise to that of~~  
9 the advanced practice registered nurse on file with the Arkansas State Board  
10 of Nursing:

11 (i) A practicing physician who is licensed under the  
12 Arkansas Medical Practices Act, § 17-95-201 et seq., § 17-95-301 et seq., and  
13 § 17-95-401 et seq.;

14 (ii) A podiatrist licensed by the Arkansas Board of  
15 Podiatric Medicine under § 17-96-101 et seq., if employed by the podiatrist;  
16 or

17 (iii) An advanced practice registered nurse who has  
18 a certificate of full independent practice authority under § 17-87-314.

19 (b)(1) An advanced practice registered nurse with a certificate of  
20 prescriptive authority may receive and prescribe drugs, medicines, or  
21 therapeutic devices appropriate to the advanced practice registered nurse's  
22 area of practice in accordance with rules established by the Arkansas State  
23 Board of Nursing.

24 (2)(A) An advanced practice registered nurse's prescriptive  
25 authority shall extend only to drugs listed in Schedules III - V ~~and, if~~  
26 ~~expressly authorized by the collaborative practice agreement, also to those~~  
27 ~~hydrocodone combination products reclassified from Schedule III to Schedule~~  
28 ~~II as of October 6, 2014.~~

29 (B) ~~An advanced practice registered nurse's prescriptive~~  
30 ~~authority also extends to drugs listed in Schedule II if:~~

31 (i) ~~The prescription is for an opioid and the~~  
32 ~~prescription is only for a five day period or less; or~~

33 (ii)(a) ~~The prescription is for a stimulant.~~

34 (b) ~~A prescription for a stimulant shall meet~~  
35 ~~the following criteria:~~

36 (1) ~~The prescription was originally~~

1 ~~initiated by a physician;~~

2 ~~(2) The physician has evaluated the~~  
3 ~~patient within six (6) months before the advanced practice registered nurse~~  
4 ~~issues a prescription; and~~

5 ~~(3) The prescription by the advanced~~  
6 ~~practice registered nurse is to treat the same condition as the original~~  
7 ~~prescription.~~

8 (B) The Arkansas State Board of Nursing shall adopt rules  
9 for safe and appropriate prescribing of stimulant medications listed in  
10 Schedule II.

11 (3)(A) The Arkansas State Board of Nursing shall promptly adopt  
12 rules applicable to an advanced practice registered nurse that are consistent  
13 with the Arkansas State Medical Board's rules governing the prescription of  
14 dangerous drugs and controlled substances.

15 (B) Before approval of the Arkansas State Board of  
16 Nursing's rules, the Arkansas State Medical Board shall review the proposed  
17 rules and verify that the proposed rules are consistent with the Arkansas  
18 State Medical Board's rules concerning the prescription of dangerous drugs  
19 and controlled substances.

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22 Referred by Representative Pilkington

23 Prepared by: JMB/JMB

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