

General Assembly
lar Session, 1987
Representative Hawkins

HOUSE BILL 1691

"AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 279 OF ACT 148 OF 1959, AS AMENDED,
[ARK. STAT. 66-3212(6)] RELATING TO FREE CHOICE OF HEALTH
CARE PROVIDERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. Section 279 of Act 148 of 1959, as amended, the same being Arkansas Statutes 66-3212(6), is hereby amended to read as follows:

"(6) It is hereby found and determined that the free choice of selection and use of health care providers is a basic and fundamental personal right of all citizens of this State; that the right of such freedom of choice of the citizens of this State should be properly protected; and that delay in the protection and guaranty of such rights could be damaging and injurious to the health, welfare and well being of the citizens of this State. Therefore, unless refused in writing by the group policyholder, or individual policyholder in the case of an individual policy or contract, every individual or group policy of disability or accident and health insurance, and every policy, contract, plan or agreement for hospital or medical services or indemnity, including health care services furnished or provided by health maintenance organizations and preferred provider organizations, except policies or contracts commonly known as medicare supplements, issued or renewed in this State after July 1, 1987, shall provide that wherever such policy, contract, plan or agreement provides for a payment or reimbursement for any service provided by a person licensed under the Arkansas Medical Practices Act, the person entitled to benefits or person performing services under such policy, contract, plan or agreement is entitled to payment or reimbursement on an equal basis for such service, when the said service is performed by any person licensed under any of the Examining Boards as found in Arkansas Statutes Annotated Section 72-201, as amended by Arkansas Statutes Annotated Section

72-602."

SECTION 2. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

