

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1226

5 By: Representatives M. Gray, Barker, Bentley, Brown, Capp, Cavanaugh, Crawford, Dalby, C. Fite,
6 Lundstrum, J. Mayberry, Petty, Rushing, Speaks, Vaught, Gazaway
7 By: Senators Irvin, Bledsoe, B. Davis, J. English
8

For An Act To Be Entitled

9
10 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PURSUIT OF A NATIONAL CANCER
11 INSTITUTE-DESIGNATED CANCER CENTER AT THE WINTHROP P.
12 ROCKEFELLER CANCER INSTITUTE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF
13 ARKANSAS FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES; TO CREATE THE
14 UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES NATIONAL
15 CANCER INSTITUTE DESIGNATION FUND; AND FOR OTHER
16 PURPOSES.
17
18

Subtitle

19
20 CONCERNING THE PURSUIT OF A NATIONAL
21 CANCER INSTITUTE-DESIGNATED CANCER CENTER
22 AT THE WINTHROP P. ROCKEFELLER CANCER
23 INSTITUTE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
24 FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES.
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27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
28

29 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.

30 The General Assembly finds that:

31 (1) In 2018, approximately sixteen thousand (16,000) Arkansans
32 were diagnosed with cancer in 2018, which means that forty-four (44)
33 Arkansans were diagnosed with cancer per day;

34 (2) Of those sixteen thousand (16,000) Arkansans diagnosed with
35 cancer, six thousand nine hundred ten (6,910) will die of the disease;

36 (3) The four (4) types of cancer with significantly high annual



1 diagnosis rates in Arkansas are:

2 (A) Lung and bronchus cancer, with two thousand seven
3 hundred twenty (2,720) diagnoses;

4 (B) Breast cancer, with two thousand one hundred sixty
5 (2,160) diagnoses;

6 (C) Prostate cancer, with one thousand two hundred sixty
7 (1,260) diagnoses; and

8 (D) Colon and rectal cancer, with one thousand three
9 hundred seventy diagnoses (1,370);

10 (4) Over the past twenty-eight (28) years, nationwide cancer-
11 related deaths have decreased by five percent (5%), but in Arkansas the rate
12 of cancer-related deaths has increased by nine percent (9%);

13 (5) Only Kentucky, Mississippi, and Oklahoma had higher cancer-
14 related death rates in the past twenty-eight (28) years than Arkansas;

15 (6) Cancer is the second-leading cause of death in Arkansas and
16 may become the leading cause of death within the next decade, surpassing the
17 current leading cause, cardiovascular disease, based on the diagnosis trends
18 in the state;

19 (7) There are currently seventy (70) National Cancer Institute-
20 Designated Cancer Centers, located in thirty-six (36) states and the District
21 of Columbia, including National Cancer Institute-Designated Cancer Centers in
22 Texas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Tennessee;

23 (8) There are no National Cancer Institute-Designated Cancer
24 Centers in Arkansas, Mississippi, or Louisiana;

25 (9) In 2018, the State of Oklahoma received the seventieth
26 National Cancer Institute-Designated Cancer Center;

27 (10) Having a National Cancer Institute-Designated Cancer Center
28 in Arkansas will improve and expand access to clinical trials, cancer
29 treatment, cancer prevention, cancer screening, and education in Arkansas;

30 (11) A National Cancer Institute-Designated Cancer Center in
31 Arkansas would act as a hub of groundbreaking treatments and care for the
32 communities around the state;

33 (12) Arkansas cancer patients often times are required to leave
34 the state to receive treatment at a National Cancer Institute-Designated
35 Cancer Center;

36 (13) National Cancer Institute-Designated Cancer Centers have

1 expanded treatment options due to research grant funds and experimental
2 trials, and hundreds of research studies are underway at these centers,
3 ranging from basic laboratory research to clinical assessments of new
4 treatments not currently available in Arkansas;

5 (14) Having a National Cancer Institute-Designated Cancer Center
6 in the state would save the lives of thousands of Arkansans through expanded
7 treatment opportunities, including opportunities to participate in
8 experimental cancer treatments;

9 (15) Being a National Cancer Institute-Designated Cancer Center
10 would allow the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute at the University of
11 Arkansas for Medical Sciences to be awarded more research funds, which will
12 provide additional experimental cancer treatments in the state;

13 (16) A National Cancer Institute-Designated Cancer Center will
14 provide support for cancer treatment providers, clinics, and hospitals in
15 Arkansas;

16 (17) In addition to the human suffering caused by cancer, there
17 are economic costs that result from the disease, including medical costs and
18 the impact on the productivity of the cancer patient and his or her family;

19 (18) The Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute at the
20 University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences is pursuing designation as a
21 National Cancer Institute-Designated Cancer Center for the benefit of the
22 more than three million (3,000,000) citizens of Arkansas;

23 (19) The National Cancer Institute recommends that a cancer
24 center have at least twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) in National Cancer
25 Institute-funded research;

26 (20) The Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute at the
27 University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences currently has approximately ten
28 million dollars (\$10,000,000) in National Cancer Institute-funded research;

29 (21) The Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute at the
30 University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences can apply for only a limited
31 number of National Cancer Institute grant funds because over sixty percent
32 (60%) of the National Cancer Institute's grant applications require that the
33 cancer center be a National Cancer Institute-Designated Cancer Center in
34 order to apply for the grant funds;

35 (22) In order to achieve status as a National Cancer Institute-
36 Designated Cancer Center, the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute at the

1 University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences will need to recruit:

2 (A) A renowned expert in cancer research to serve as the
3 Director of the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute at the University of
4 Arkansas for Medical Sciences; and

5 (B) Nationally recognized National Cancer Institute-funded
6 medical professionals;

7 (23) To be successful in gaining status as a National Cancer
8 Institute-Designated Cancer Center, ongoing, dedicated financial support from
9 the State of Arkansas is critical;

10 (24) The Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute at the
11 University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences will need a stream of funding
12 between ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) and twenty million dollars
13 (\$20,000,000) per year to establish and maintain a National Cancer Institute-
14 Designated Cancer Center;

15 (25) Like other states that have been successful in securing
16 status as a National Cancer Institute-Designated Cancer Center for their
17 cancer centers, it is incumbent that the State of Arkansas invest in this
18 initiative;

19 (26) It is a strategic goal of the Winthrop P. Rockefeller
20 Cancer Institute at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences to
21 become a National Cancer Institute-Designated Cancer Center;

22 (27) State government funds will assist the Winthrop P.
23 Rockefeller Cancer Institute at the University of Arkansas for Medical
24 Sciences secure vital investments from other public and private sources;

25 (28) The Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute at the
26 University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences is committed to raising at least
27 thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000) in private funds to support the pursuit
28 of achieving status as a National Cancer Institute-Designated Cancer Center;

29 (29) The private resources pursued by the Winthrop P.
30 Rockefeller Cancer Institute at the University of Arkansas for Medical
31 Sciences are a part of a cohesive and focused plan that will forever change
32 the state;

33 (30) It is estimated that having a National Cancer Institute-
34 Designated Cancer Center will bring in an additional seventy million dollars
35 (\$70,000,000) annually to Arkansas's economy and will create one thousand
36 five hundred eighty-four (1,584) new jobs over five (5) years;

1 (31) The state should establish a fund solely for the purpose of
2 pursuing and maintaining status as a National Cancer Institute-Designated
3 Cancer Center for the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute at the
4 University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences;

5 (32) If upon June 30, 2027, the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer
6 Institute at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences has not achieved
7 status as a National Cancer Institute-Designated Cancer Center, then the fund
8 created in this act should sunset; and

9 (33) Future General Assemblies will have the authority and
10 responsibility to evaluate the progress of the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer
11 Institute at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences toward achieving
12 status as a National Cancer Institute-Designated Cancer Center and adjust this
13 act accordingly.

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15 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 19, Chapter 5, Subchapter 12, is
16 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

17 19-5-1264. University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences National Cancer
18 Institute Designation Fund – Report.

19 (a) There is created on the books of the Treasurer of State, the
20 Auditor of State, and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State a miscellaneous
21 fund to be known as the “University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences National
22 Cancer Institute Designation Fund”.

23 (b) The fund shall consist of:

24 (1) Moneys obtained from private grants or other sources that
25 are designated to be credited to the fund; and

26 (2) Any other funds authorized or provided by law.

27 (c) The fund shall be used by the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer
28 Institute at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences solely to
29 achieve and maintain status as a National Cancer Institute-Designated Cancer
30 Center.

31 (d) Moneys remaining in the fund at the end of each fiscal year shall
32 carry forward and be made available for the purposes stated in this section
33 in the next fiscal year.

34 (e)(1) The Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute at the University
35 of Arkansas for Medical Sciences shall submit a semiannual report containing
36 the following information to the Governor; the Legislative Council or, if the

1 General Assembly is in session, the Joint Budget Committee; the Senate
2 Committee on Public Health, Welfare and Labor; and the House Committee on
3 Public Health, Welfare, and Labor:

4 (A) The balance of the fund as of the reporting date;

5 (B) A list of the administrative costs paid for from the
6 fund, including without limitation salaries, pensions, and packages;

7 (C) The total revenue received by the fund during the
8 reporting period; and

9 (D) A detailed description of the steps taken and the
10 progress made toward achieving status as a National Cancer Institute-
11 Designated Cancer Center during the reporting period.

12 (2) The semiannual report required under this subsection shall
13 be submitted by January 1 and July 1 of each year.

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