

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1762

5 By: Representatives K. Ferguson, F. Allen, M. Gray
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO CREATE THE CANCER PREVENTION AND CANCER
9 PATIENT NAVIGATION ACT; TO IMPROVE THE CARE OF CANCER
10 PATIENTS IN THIS STATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

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13 TO CREATE THE CANCER PREVENTION AND
14 CANCER PATIENT NAVIGATION ACT; AND TO
15 IMPROVE THE CARE OF CANCER PATIENTS IN
16 THIS STATE.
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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22 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Title.

23 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Cancer Prevention and
24 Cancer Patient Navigation Act".
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26 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 15, Subchapter 2, is
27 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

28 20-15-206. Cancer patient navigation.

29 (a) As used in this section:

30 (1) "Health disparity population" means a population that
31 experiences a disproportionate rate of cancer screening, diagnosis,
32 incidence, prevalence, morbidity, mortality, survivorship, or related health
33 conditions associated with cancer as compared to the general population; and

34 (2) "Patient navigation" means the intervention designed to
35 assist patients from a health disparity population and caregivers with
36 obtaining care related to the prevention and treatment of cancer, such as



1 timely access to quality health care, social and psychological care from
2 cancer prevention screening services or early detection services, cancer
3 treatment, and follow-up care for survivors of cancer, through culturally
4 sensitive care coordination and support that includes:

5 (A) Acting as contacts for individuals within a health
6 disparity population who are found to have a symptom, physical sign, abnormal
7 clinical finding, or diagnosis of cancer following a screening or early
8 detection service, including without limitation the assistance in the
9 coordination of healthcare services and healthcare provider referrals;

10 (B) Facilitating the involvement of community and service
11 organizations to help individuals within a health disparity population who
12 are at risk for or who have cancer or caregivers of individuals within a
13 health disparity population who are at risk or who have cancer, or both to
14 overcome barriers, which may include lack of social support, financial, or
15 access to transportation, or difficulty in scheduling of healthcare
16 appointments to accessing quality and timely healthcare services;

17 (C) Notifying individuals within a health disparity
18 population of clinical trials and, if requested, facilitating enrollment in
19 the clinical trials;

20 (D) Anticipating, identifying, and helping patients
21 overcome barriers within the healthcare system to ensure prompt diagnostic
22 and treatment resolution of an abnormal finding of cancer;

23 (E) Coordinating with a relevant health insurance
24 ombudsman program to provide information about health coverage to individuals
25 within a health disparity population who are at risk for or who have cancer,
26 including without limitation information about private insurance, healthcare
27 savings accounts, the Arkansas Medicaid Program, and other publicly funded
28 programs; and

29 (F) Conducting ongoing outreach to health disparity
30 populations.

31 (b) The Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute at the University of
32 Arkansas for Medical Sciences may establish a comprehensive cancer patient
33 navigation program to:

34 (1) Guide patients who are at risk for or who are diagnosed with
35 cancer through the healthcare system;

36 (2) Help patients who are at risk for or who are diagnosed with

1 cancer overcome physical, emotional, social, and financial barriers to
2 receiving timely and effective cancer treatment;

3 (3) Improve care of patients who are at risk for or who are
4 diagnosed with cancer in this state; and

5 (4) Establish a billing code for patient navigation
6 reimbursement.

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