

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

As Engrossed: H1/28/25

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1186

5 By: Representative Vaught
6 By: Senator C. Penzo
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE PAIN RELIEF PARITY ACT; TO
10 REQUIRE PAIN RELIEF PARITY IN THE ARKANSAS MEDICAID
11 PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12
13

Subtitle

15 TO CREATE THE PAIN RELIEF PARITY ACT;
16 AND TO REQUIRE PAIN RELIEF PARITY IN THE
17 ARKANSAS MEDICAID PROGRAM.
18

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
20

21 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. TITLE.

22 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Pain Relief Parity
23 Act".
24

25 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 77, Subchapter 4, is
26 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

27 20-77-408. Medicaid pain relief parity.

28 (a) In establishing and maintaining the formulary and preferred drug
29 list for the Arkansas Medicaid Program, the Department of Human Services
30 shall ensure that a non-opioid drug approved by the United States Food and
31 Drug Administration for the treatment or management of pain shall not be
32 disadvantaged or discouraged with respect to coverage relative to any opioid
33 or narcotic drug for the treatment or management of pain on the formulary and
34 preferred drug list, including without limitation:

35 (1) Designating any non-opioid drug as a non-preferred drug if
36 any opioid or narcotic drug is designated as a preferred drug; or



