1	State of Arkansas 95th General Assembly	As Engrossed: H1/28/25 $f A~Bill$	
2	•	A Dili	HOUSE BILL 1186
3 4	Regular Session, 2025		HOUSE BILL 1160
5	By: Representative Vaught		
6	By: Senator C. Penzo		
7	by. Sendior C. 1 en20		
8		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			
14		Subtitle	
15	TO C	REATE THE PAIN RELIEF PARITY ACT;	
16	AND	TO REQUIRE PAIN RELIEF PARITY IN THE	E
17	ARKA	NSAS MEDICAID PROGRAM.	
18			
19	BE IT ENACTED BY THE O	GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARK	ANSAS:
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21	SECTION 1. DO N	NOT CODIFY. TITLE.	
22	This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Pain Relief Parity		
23	Act".		
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25	SECTION 2. Arka	ansas Code Title 20, Chapter 77, Sub	chapter 4, is
26	amended to add an add:	itional section to read as follows:	
27	20-77-408. Med	icaid pain relief parity.	
28	<u>(a) In establis</u>	shing 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		gnating any non-opioid drug as a non	
36	any opioid or narcotio	c drug is designated as a preferred	drug; or

As Engrossed: H1/28/25 HB1186

1	(2) Establishing more restrictive or more extensive utilization		
2	controls, including without limitation more restrictive or more extensive		
3	prior authorization or step therapy requirements, for a non-opioid drug than		
4	the least restrictive or extensive utilization controls applicable to any		
5	opioid or narcotic drug.		
6	(b) This section shall apply to:		
7	(1) A non-opioid drug immediately upon approval by the United		
8	States Food and Drug Administration for the treatment or management of pain,		
9	regardless of whether the non-opioid drug has been reviewed by the department		
10	for inclusion on the formulary and preferred drug list; and		
11	(2) A drug being provided under a contract between the		
12	department and a managed care organization.		
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14	/s/Vaught		
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