

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

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1285

5 By: Representative L. Johnson  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AN EXEMPTION PROGRAM FOR  
9 AMBULANCE SERVICE’S OPERATORS FOR CERTAIN HEALTHCARE  
10 SERVICES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

14 TO ESTABLISH AN EXEMPTION PROGRAM FOR  
15 AMBULANCE SERVICE’S OPERATORS FOR  
16 CERTAIN HEALTHCARE SERVICES.  
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 20-13-108(b), concerning the triage, treat,  
22 and transport to alternative destination by an ambulance service operator, is  
23 amended to read as follows:

24 (b) ~~An~~ Except as provided under subsection (c) of this section, an  
25 ambulance service’s operators may triage and transport a patient to an  
26 alternative destination in this state or treat in place if the ambulance  
27 service is coordinating the care of the patient through telemedicine with a  
28 physician for a medical-based complaint or with a behavioral health  
29 specialist for a behavioral-based complaint.  
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31 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 20-13-108, concerning the triage, treat,  
32 and transport to alternative destination by ambulance service operators, is  
33 amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

34 (c)(1) The department shall by rule establish a procedure in which an  
35 ambulance service’s operator may apply for an exemption for certain  
36 healthcare services from the telemedicine requirement under subsection (b) of



1 this section on the basis that the healthcare service does not necessitate  
2 coordination of care of the patient through telemedicine.

3 (2) The department shall establish the criteria to be used in  
4 determining whether or not a healthcare service is exempt under subdivision  
5 (c)(1) of this section.

6 (3)(A) An ambulance service's operator may apply for an  
7 exemption for a certain healthcare service under subdivision (c)(1) of this  
8 section on forms prescribed by the department.

9 (B) A separate application shall be filed for each:

10 (i) Each Healthcare service for which the ambulance  
11 service's operator seeks an exemption; and

12 (ii) Each application shall contain information on  
13 which the ambulance service's operator relies to justify an exemption.

14 (4) Upon making a determination on an application for exemption,  
15 the department shall notify the ambulance service's operator of the  
16 department's determination.

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18 SECTION 3. DO NOT CODIFY. Rules.

19 (a) When adopting the initial rules required under this act, the  
20 Department of Health shall file the final rules with the Secretary of State  
21 for adoption under § 25-15-204(f):

22 (1) On or before January 1, 2026; or

23 (2) If approval under § 10-3-309 has not occurred by January 1,  
24 2026, as soon as practicable after approval under § 10-3-309.

25 (b) The department shall file the proposed rules with the Legislative  
26 Council under § 10-3-309(c) sufficiently in advance of January 1, 2026, so  
27 that the Legislative Council may consider the rules for approval before  
28 January 1, 2026.