

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

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1559

5 By: Representative McGrew  
6 By: Senator J. Boyd  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8  
9 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO  
10 SEEK A WAIVER TO THE ARKANSAS MEDICAID PROGRAM FOR  
11 COVERAGE FOR INPATIENT TREATMENT SERVICES FOR  
12 SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

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16 TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN  
17 SERVICES TO SEEK A WAIVER TO THE  
18 ARKANSAS MEDICAID PROGRAM FOR COVERAGE  
19 FOR INPATIENT TREATMENT SERVICES FOR  
20 SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS.  
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22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 77, Subchapter 1, is  
25 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

26 20-77-154. Inpatient treatment for substance use disorder –  
27 Legislative findings.

28 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

29 (1) Substance use disorder is a significant public health  
30 concern in this state;

31 (2) Inpatient treatment for substance use disorders is an  
32 essential component of comprehensive care;

33 (3) Currently, inpatient treatment for substance use disorder is  
34 primarily funded through federal block grants; and

35 (4) Expanding coverage in the Arkansas Medicaid Program for  
36 inpatient treatment for substance use disorder could improve access to care



1 and patient outcomes in this state.

2 (b) The Department of Human Services shall:

3 (1)(A) Develop and submit an application to the Centers of  
4 Medicare & Medicaid Services for a demonstration waiver under section 1115 of  
5 the Social Security Act, as in effect January 1, 2025, for exclusion of  
6 institutions for mental diseases for inpatient treatment services of  
7 substance use disorder within the program.

8 (B) The application described in subdivision (b)(1)(A) of  
9 this section shall:

10 (i) Allow coverage for inpatient treatment of  
11 substance use disorder in facilities that qualify as institutions for mental  
12 diseases;

13 (ii) Expand access to medication-assisted treatment  
14 for opioid use disorder;

15 (iii) Improve care coordination for beneficiaries  
16 with substance use disorder; and

17 (iv) Develop intensive outpatient services designed  
18 to reduce the need for inpatient treatment services;

19 (2) Consult with relevant stakeholders, including substance use  
20 disorder treatment providers, patient advocacy groups, and behavioral health  
21 experts in developing the waiver application described in subdivision  
22 (b)(1)(A) of this section;

23 (3) Implement expanded coverage and services as authorized and  
24 approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services; and

25 (4) Report annually to the General Assembly on the status of the  
26 waiver application described under subdivision (b)(1)(A) of this section, the  
27 implementation progress, and outcomes of the expanded coverage.

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