

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

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1859

5 By: Representatives Rose, Achor, D. Garner, Hudson  
6 By: Senators J. Bryant, G. Leding  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING MASTECTOMIES; AND  
10 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
11

## Subtitle

13 TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING  
14 MASTECTOMIES.  
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 23-99-405 is amended to read as follows:  
20 23-99-405. Mastectomies.

21 (a) Every health benefit plan providing mastectomy benefits and issued  
22 or renewed after July 16, 2003, shall conform with the requirements of the  
23 Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300gg-6 and 300gg-  
24 52, as it existed on ~~January 1, 2003~~ January 1, 2025.

25 (b) To the extent the requirements of this section do not conflict  
26 with federal law, rules, or regulations, each healthcare insurer providing  
27 mastectomy benefits in a health benefit plan shall provide, in a manner  
28 determined in consultation with the attending physician and the enrollee or  
29 insured:

30 (1) For medical and surgical benefits for any hospital stay in  
31 connection with a mastectomy for not less than forty-eight (48) hours unless  
32 the decision to discharge the patient before the expiration of the minimum  
33 length of stay is made by an attending physician in consultation with the  
34 enrollee or insured;

35 (2) The following medical and surgical benefits with respect to  
36 mastectomy coverage if an enrollee or insured receives benefits in connection



1 with a mastectomy and elects breast reconstruction:

2 (A) Surgery and reconstruction of the breast on which the  
3 mastectomy has been performed;

4 (B) Surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to  
5 produce a symmetrical appearance; and

6 (C) Prostheses and coverage for physical complications at  
7 all stages of a mastectomy, including lymphedemas; ~~and~~

8 (3) Written notice of the availability of coverage under this  
9 section to the enrollee or insured upon enrollment and annually thereafter;  
10 and

11 (4)(A) Medical and surgical benefits for:

12 (i) Artificial or biological mesh used to support  
13 tissue; and

14 (ii) A nerve graft to preserve or restore nerve  
15 function.

16 (B) A healthcare insurer, health benefit plan, or group  
17 health plan shall reimburse a healthcare provider for the supplies required  
18 for the healthcare services provided under subdivision (b)(4)(A) of this  
19 section at a rate equal to or greater than one hundred percent (100%) of the  
20 healthcare provider's acquisition cost.

21 ~~(c) No healthcare~~ A healthcare insurer providing mastectomy benefits  
22 under this section shall not:

23 (1) Deny an enrollee or insured eligibility or continued  
24 eligibility to enroll or renew coverage under the terms of the health benefit  
25 plan solely for the purpose of avoiding the requirements of this section; or

26 (2) Penalize, reduce, or limit the reimbursement of an attending  
27 provider or induce the provider to provide care in a manner inconsistent with  
28 this section.

29 (d) A healthcare insurer or health benefit plan shall cover the  
30 healthcare services under this section if the service is performed at a  
31 licensed facility, including without limitation:

32 (1) A hospital;

33 (2) A hospital outpatient department; and

34 (3) An ambulatory surgery center.

35 (e) This section does not apply to a plan providing health benefits to  
36 state and public school employees under § 21-5-401 et seq.

1           (f) This section expires on June 30, 2031, unless extended by the  
2 General Assembly.

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