

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.
Act 1089 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

As Engrossed: H3/9/17 S3/30/17
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2014

By: Representatives Baltz, Farrer
By: Senator D. Sanders

For An Act To Be Entitled

*AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOL LIFE
AND HEALTH INSURANCE BOARD TO EXPLORE EMERGING
THERAPIES AND COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF TREATMENTS; AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES.*

Subtitle

*TO REQUIRE THE STATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOL
LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE BOARD TO
EXPLORE EMERGING THERAPIES AND COST-
EFFECTIVENESS OF TREATMENT.*

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

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.

The General Assembly finds that:

*(1) The State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Board
has a fiduciary obligation to explore cost-effective treatments for its
members;*

*(2) There are emerging technologies that could serve as cost-
effective alternatives to surgical procedures; and*

*(3) Clinical organizations are increasingly providing public
guidance on quality treatment practices.*

*SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 23, Chapter 79, is amended to add an
additional subchapter to read as follows:*

Subchapter 17 – Emerging Therapy Act of 2017



23-79-1701. Title.

This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Emerging Therapy Act of 2017".

23-79-1702. Definitions.

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Board" means the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Board;

(2) "Choosing Wisely Initiative" means the initiative established by the American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation that seeks to advance a national dialogue on avoiding wasteful or unnecessary medical tests, treatments, and procedures;

(3) "Emerging therapies" means therapeutic services that have not historically been covered but for which new evidence may demonstrate therapeutic enhancements, opportunities for cost-avoidance, or both;

(4) "Evidence" means peer-reviewed objective studies of emerging therapies; and

(5) "Regenerative injection therapy" means a nonsurgical orthopedic treatment performed by injecting into a joint or soft tissue a substance that stimulates the growth of normal cells and tissues for the purpose of strengthening or repairing a painful or injured joint or connective tissue.

23-79-1703. State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Board – Requirements.

(a) By the end of plan year 2017, the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Board shall explore the evidence supporting opportunities for benefit modification informed by:

(1) The Choosing Wisely Initiative;

(2) Emerging therapies; and

(3) Therapeutic alternatives to invasive surgical procedures, such as regenerative injection therapy.

(b) By July of 2018, the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Board shall:

(1) Identify and consider implementation of pilot programs that include stepped therapy or center of excellence approaches, or both, for

which evidence demonstrates cost savings to the plan; and

(2) Identify opportunities to stimulate conversations between patients and providers about appropriate and necessary treatment, including treatment recommendations identified by the Choosing Wisely Initiative.

/s/Baltz

APPROVED: 04/07/2017