

State of Arkansas  
91st General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2017

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1813

By: Representative Hillman

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE TREATMENT OF RABIES UNDER THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAW; TO REVISE THE DEFINITION OF "OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE" UNDER THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAW; TO AMEND PORTIONS OF THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAW THAT RESULTED FROM INITIATED MEASURE 1948, NO. 4; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

TO PROVIDE FOR THE TREATMENT OF RABIES UNDER THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAW; AND TO AMEND PORTIONS OF THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAW THAT RESULTED FROM INITIATED MEASURE 1948, NO. 4.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 11-9-508(a), concerning the liability of an employer for medical services and supplies under the Workers' Compensation Law, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) The employer shall promptly provide for an injured employee such medical, surgical, hospital, chiropractic, optometric, podiatric, and nursing services and medicine, crutches, ambulatory devices, artificial limbs, eyeglasses, contact lenses, hearing aids, and other apparatus as may be reasonably necessary in connection with the injury received by the employee.

(2)(A) Rabies is a highly contagious and potentially deadly



infectious disease and exposure to rabies and the risk of infection is the direct result of an injury caused by the bite of a rabies-infected animal under this section.

(B)(i) An employer shall promptly provide reasonably necessary medical treatment to an injured employee who is exposed to rabies as described in subdivision (a)(2)(A) of this section.

(ii) As used in subdivision (a)(2)(B)(i) of this section, "reasonably necessary medical treatment" means without limitation any diagnostic and preventive measures prescribed for detection, diagnosis, and prevention of rabies.

**APPROVED: 03/27/2017**