

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.
Act 927 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

As Engrossed: S3/16/17
A Bill

SENATE BILL 522

By: Senator E. Cheatham

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CONTINUE TO REQUIRE HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS TO PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR THE TREATMENT OF MORBID OBESITY; TO EXTEND THE PILOT PROGRAM ON COVERAGE FOR MORBID OBESITY DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CONTINUE TO REQUIRE HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS TO PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR THE TREATMENT OF MORBID OBESITY; AND TO EXTEND THE PILOT PROGRAM ON COVERAGE FOR MORBID OBESITY DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT.

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

SECTION 1. Uncodified identical Acts 2014 (2nd Ex. Sess.), Nos. 3 and 6, § 10, are amended to read as follows:

SECTION 10. Uncodified Acts 2011, No. 855, § 3 is amended to read as follows:

SECTION 3. DO NOT CODIFY. Pilot Program on coverage for morbid obesity diagnosis and treatment.

(a)(1)(A) A state and public school employees health benefit plan that is offered, issued, or renewed on or after January 1, 2012, shall offer coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of morbid obesity.

(B) The cost of coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of morbid obesity offered under subdivision (a)(1)(A) of this section shall not exceed:



(i) Three million dollars (\$3,000,000) annually for the Arkansas State Employees Health Benefit Plan; or

(ii) Three million dollars (\$3,000,000) annually for the Arkansas Public School Employees Health Benefit Plan.

(2) The coverage for morbid obesity offered under subdivision (a)(1) of this section includes without limitation coverage for bariatric surgery including:

- (A) Gastric bypass surgery;
- (B) Adjustable gastric banding surgery;
- (C) Sleeve gastrectomy surgery~~;~~ and
- (D) Duodenal switch biliopancreatic diversion.

(b) The coverage for morbid obesity diagnosis and treatment offered under this ~~subchapter~~ section does not diminish or limit benefits otherwise allowable under a state and public school employees health benefit plan.

(c) The State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Board ~~shall~~ may discontinue or suspend a plan option offered under subsection (a) of this section if the board determines adjustments are necessary to ensure the financial soundness and overall well-being of the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Program.

SECTION 2. Uncodified Acts 2011, No. 855, § 5, is amended to read as follows:

SECTION 5. DO NOT CODIFY. This act shall become null and void and cease to have any effect ~~at~~ on and after midnight on ~~December 31, 2017~~ December 31, 2021.

/s/E. Cheatham

APPROVED: 04/05/2017