

State of Arkansas  
95th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2025

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1310

By: Representative Gramlich

By: Senator Flippo

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE NEWBORN UMBILICAL CORD BLOOD INITIATIVE ACT; TO ABOLISH THE ARKANSAS COMMISSION FOR THE NEWBORN UMBILICAL CORD BLOOD INITIATIVE; TO TRANSFER ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NEWBORN UMBILICAL CORD BLOOD BANK TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

TO AMEND THE NEWBORN UMBILICAL CORD BLOOD INITIATIVE ACT; TO ABOLISH THE ARKANSAS COMMISSION FOR THE NEWBORN UMBILICAL CORD BLOOD INITIATIVE; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Abolition of the Arkansas Commission for the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Initiative.

(a) The Arkansas Commission for the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Initiative is abolished, and its authority, duties, functions, records, contracts, personnel, property, and unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, and other funds, including without limitation the functions of budgeting or purchasing, are transferred to the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

(b) The Arkansas Commission for the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Initiative's statutory powers, duties, and functions, including without



limitation the functions of budgeting or purchasing, records, contracts, personnel, property, and unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, and other funds are transferred to the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

(c)(1) The abolishment of the Arkansas Commission for the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Initiative does not affect the orders, rules, directives, registration, licensing, or standards made or promulgated by the Arkansas Commission for the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Initiative before the effective date of this act.

(2) The orders, rules, directives, registration, licensing, and standards of the Arkansas Commission for the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Initiative shall continue to be in effect until they are amended or repealed under authority given by law.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 20-8-504 is amended to read as follows:  
20-8-504. Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood ~~Initiative~~ Bank.

(a)(1) ~~On or before June 30, 2008, the Arkansas Commission for the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Initiative~~ The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences shall establish ~~a network of postnatal tissue and fluid banks in partnership with one (1) or more public or private colleges or universities, public or private hospitals, nonprofit organizations, or private firms~~ and maintain the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Bank in this state for the purpose of collecting and storing postnatal tissue and fluid.

(2) The Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Bank shall create a voluntary program to make tissue and fluid available for scientific research and medical treatment in accordance with this subchapter.

(3) A parent of a child born in this state may voluntarily contribute postnatal tissue and fluid to the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Bank.

(b)(1) The ~~commission~~ Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Bank shall develop a voluntary program to educate pregnant ~~patients~~ women with respect to the banking of postnatal tissue and fluid.

(2) The program shall include:

(A) An explanation of the difference between public and private postnatal tissue and fluid banking programs;

(B) The medical process involved in the collection and

storage of postnatal tissue and fluid;

(C) The current and potential future medical uses of stored postnatal tissue and fluid;

(D) The benefits and risks involved in the banking of postnatal tissue and fluid; and

(E) The availability and cost of storing postnatal tissue and fluid in public and private umbilical cord blood banks.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 20-8-505 is repealed.

~~20-8-505. Arkansas Commission for the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Initiative—Creation—Members.~~

~~(a) The Arkansas Commission for the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Initiative is created.~~

~~(b)(1) The commission shall consist of eleven (11) members appointed as follows:~~

~~(A) Three (3) members appointed by the Governor as follows:~~

~~(i) One (1) member who is a physician licensed by the Arkansas State Medical Board;~~

~~(ii) One (1) member who has a financial background;~~  
and

~~(iii) One (1) member who has a legal background or an ethicist background, or both;~~

~~(B) Three (3) members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives as follows:~~

~~(i) One (1) member who is a physician licensed by the board;~~

~~(ii) One (1) member who has a financial background;~~  
and

~~(iii) One (1) member who has a legal background or an ethicist background, or both;~~

~~(C) Three (3) members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate as follows:~~

~~(i) One (1) member who is a physician licensed by the board;~~

~~(ii) One (1) member who has a financial background;~~

and

~~(iii) One (1) member who has a legal background or an ethicist background, or both;~~

~~(D) The Dean of the Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences or his or her designee; and~~

~~(E) The Secretary of the Department of Health or his or her designee.~~

~~(2) The commission shall include one (1) consultant, nonvoting member who shall be the Director of Cell Therapy and Transfusion Medicine of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.~~

~~(e) The Governor shall designate one (1) member as chair of the commission.~~

~~(d) The chair shall call the first meeting of the commission within sixty (60) days of his or her appointment.~~

~~(e)(1) At the first meeting of the commission, the members shall draw lots so that three (3) members serve two-year terms, three (3) members serve three-year terms, and three (3) members serve four-year terms.~~

~~(2) After the initial terms, members shall serve four-year terms.~~

~~(f) The commission shall meet at least one (1) time per year.~~

~~(g)(1) A majority of the membership of the commission shall constitute a quorum.~~

~~(2) A majority vote of those members present shall be required for any action of the commission.~~

~~(h) Vacancies on the commission due to death, resignation, removal, or other causes shall be filled in the same manner as is provided in this section for initial appointments.~~

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 20-8-506 is amended to read as follows:

20-8-506. ~~Arkansas Commission for the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Initiative~~ Medical director of Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Bank – Powers and duties.

(a) ~~The Arkansas Commission for the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Initiative~~ medical director of the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Bank shall:

(1) Investigate the implementation of this subchapter and

recommend improvements in this subchapter to the General Assembly;

~~(2) Make available to the public the records of all meetings of the commission and of all business transacted by the commission;~~

~~(3)~~(2) Oversee the operations of the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Bank, including without limitation the approval of all fees established to cover administration, collection, and storage costs;

~~(4)~~(3) ~~Undertake the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Initiative by promoting awareness of the blood bank and encouraging~~ Promote awareness of the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Bank and encourage donation of postnatal tissue and fluid to the blood bank;

~~(5)~~(4) Ensure the privacy of persons who donate umbilical cord blood, amniotic fluid, and placental tissue to the blood bank;

~~(6)~~(5) Develop a plan for making postnatal tissue and fluid collected ~~under the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Initiative~~ the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Bank available for scientific research and medical treatment in compliance with all relevant national practice and quality standards;

~~(7)~~(6) Develop a plan for private storage of postnatal tissue and fluid for medical treatment; and

~~(8)~~(7) Participate in the National Cord Blood Program and register postnatal tissue and fluid collected with registries operating in connection with the National Cord Blood Program;

~~(9) If funds are available, request the Department of Health to employ staff and enter into contracts necessary to implement this subchapter, and reimburse the department for the cost of implementing this subchapter; and~~

~~(10) Report annually to the General Assembly on or before October 1 of each year concerning the activities of the commission.~~

(b) ~~The commission~~ medical director of the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Bank may seek additional funding from any source, including without limitation federal grants and private grants.

(c) The medical director of the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Bank shall be a faculty member at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 25-43-802(a)(8), concerning the state entities transferred to the Department of Health, is repealed.

~~(8) The Arkansas Commission for the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Initiative, created under § 20-8-505;~~

SECTION 6. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that it is important to the citizens of Arkansas that state government services be provided in an efficient and cost-effective manner; that the abolition of commissions that are not operational is an effective way to achieve both operational efficiencies and economies of scale; that this act is immediately necessary to obtain cost efficiencies and streamline the provision of government services without delay for the benefit of Arkansas taxpayers to allow services that preserve the health, safety, and property of Arkansas citizens; and that this act transferring the duties of the Arkansas Commission for the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Initiative to the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and abolishment of the Arkansas Commission for the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Initiative should become effective on July 1, 2025, to coincide with the appropriation bills of the University of Arkansas and ensure that the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Bank provides its expanded vital services as the transfer of duties is implemented and does not experience any issues with funding under the transfer of duties. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on July 1, 2025.

**APPROVED: 2/18/25**