

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.  
Act 960 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas      *As Engrossed: H1/28/25 H2/12/25 S3/5/25*  
95th General Assembly      **A Bill**  
Regular Session, 2025

HOUSE BILL 1186

By: Representative Vaught

*By: Senator C. Penzo*

**For An Act To Be Entitled**

AN ACT TO CREATE THE PAIN RELIEF PARITY ACT; TO  
REQUIRE PAIN RELIEF PARITY IN THE ARKANSAS MEDICAID  
PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

**Subtitle**

TO CREATE THE PAIN RELIEF PARITY ACT;  
AND TO REQUIRE PAIN RELIEF PARITY IN THE  
ARKANSAS MEDICAID PROGRAM.

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

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. TITLE.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Pain Relief Parity Act".

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 77, Subchapter 4, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

20-77-408. Medicaid pain relief parity.

In establishing and maintaining the formulary and preferred drug list for the Arkansas Medicaid Program, the Department of Human Services shall ensure that a non-opioid drug approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration with no therapeutic equivalent for the treatment or management of pain shall not be disadvantaged or discouraged with respect to coverage relative to any opioid or narcotic drug for the treatment or management of pain on the formulary and preferred drug list, including without limitation:

(1) Designating any non-opioid drug as a non-preferred drug if any opioid or narcotic drug is designated as a preferred drug; or



(2) Establishing more restrictive or more extensive utilization controls, including without limitation more restrictive or more extensive prior authorization or step therapy requirements, for a non-opioid drug than applicable to any opioid or narcotic drug.

*/s/Vaught*

**APPROVED: 4/21/25**