

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2023-132

State of Arkansas  
94th General Assembly

**A Bill**

JMB/JMB  
SENATE BILL

By: Senator C. Penzo

Filed with: Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor  
pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

**For An Act To Be Entitled**

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ARKANSAS MEDICAID PROGRAM TO  
RECOGNIZE A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT AS A PRIMARY CARE  
PROVIDER; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

**Subtitle**

TO AUTHORIZE THE ARKANSAS MEDICAID  
PROGRAM TO RECOGNIZE A PHYSICIAN  
ASSISTANT AS A PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 77, Subchapter 1, is  
amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

20-77-154. Primary care provider for Arkansas Medicaid Program –  
Physician assistant.

(a) The Arkansas Medicaid Program shall recognize a physician  
assistant licensed by the Arkansas State Medical Board as a primary care  
provider authorized to carry out the following duties of a primary care case  
manager:

(1) Being recognized and serving as the initial healthcare  
provider in the program; and

(2) Treating a patient within the scope of practice and  
licensure of a physician assistant under § 17-105-107.

(b) The program shall reimburse a physician assistant:

1           (1) Not less than the current reimbursement rate for services  
2 performed within the scope of practice and licensure of the physician  
3 assistant; and

4           (2) One hundred percent (100%) of the physician reimbursement  
5 rate for all out-of-pocket costs incurred by the physician assistant such as  
6 the costs of laboratory tests, X-rays, and any additional tests ordered or  
7 conducted by the physician assistant.

8           (c) A healthcare insurance policy in which the premiums are paid  
9 directly or indirectly by the program also shall recognize and reimburse a  
10 physician assistant under subsections (a) and (b) of this section.

11           (d) This section does not increase the scope of practice or licensure  
12 of a physician assistant.

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15 Referred by Senator C. Penzo

16 Prepared by: JMB/JMB

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