

1 **State of Arkansas**  
2 **78th General Assembly**  
3 **Regular Session, 1991**

# A Bill

**SENATE BILL 431**

4 **By: Insurance and Commerce Committee**  
5  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT RELATING TO MINIMUM BASIC BENEFIT POLICIES AND  
9 SUBSCRIPTION CONTRACTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

10

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

12

13 SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. The General Assembly finds that the  
14 cost of health insurance coverage is not affordable for many small businesses,  
15 their employees, self employed persons and other individuals, and that as a  
16 result hundreds of thousands of Arkansas citizens do not have any health  
17 insurance coverage. It is the intent of the General Assembly to reduce the  
18 cost of health insurance for these citizens by (a) authorizing the development  
19 of new classes of hospital and medical insurance coverage for qualified  
20 groups, families and individuals; and (b) authorizing the Arkansas Insurance  
21 Commissioner to develop means to assist in limiting the marketing and  
22 administrative costs of certain of such new classes of insurance coverage.

23

24 SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS. As used in this act:

25 (1) "COBRA" shall mean the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation  
26 Act of 1985;

27 (2) "Commissioner" shall mean the Arkansas Insurance Commissioner;

28 (3) "Insured" shall mean any individual or group insured under a  
29 minimum basic benefit policy issued pursuant to the provisions of this act;

30 (4) "Insurer" means an insurer, health maintenance organization,  
31 hospital or medical services corporation offering a minimum basic benefit  
32 policy pursuant to this act;

33 (5) "Loss Ratio" means the percentage derived by dividing incurred  
34 claims (both reported and not reported) by total premiums earned;

35 (6) "Permitted Coverages" shall mean health or hospitalization coverage

1 under a minimum basic benefit policy issued pursuant to this act, under  
2 medicaid, medicare, *limited benefit policies as defined by the rules and*  
3 *regulations of the Commissioner, COBRA or the provisions of Ark. Code Ann. 23-*  
4 *86-114, 23-86-115 or 23-86-116;*

5 (7) "Minimum Basic Benefit Policy" shall mean a policy or subscription  
6 contract which an insurer, may choose to offer to a qualified individual,  
7 qualified family, or qualified group pursuant to the provisions of this act;

8 (8) "Qualified Family" means individuals all of whom are qualified  
9 individuals and all of whom are related by blood, marriage, or adoption;

10 (9) "Qualified Group" means a group, organized *other than* pursuant to  
11 Section 4 of this act, in which each covered individual, or covered dependent  
12 of such covered individual, within the group is a qualified individual;  
13 *provided a "qualified group" may include less than all employees of an*  
14 *employer;*

15 (10) "Qualified Individual" means an individual who is employed in or is  
16 a resident of Arkansas and who has been without health insurance coverage,  
17 other than Permitted Coverage, for the twelve (12) month period immediately  
18 preceding the effective date of a minimum basic benefit policy issued pursuant  
19 to this act and who meets reasonable underwriting standards; provided,  
20 children newborn to or adopted by an insured after the effective date of a  
21 policy issued to the insured pursuant to this act *which covers the insured and*  
22 *members of the insured's family,* shall be considered qualified individuals;

23 (11) "Qualified Trust" means a group organized pursuant to Section 4 of  
24 this Act in which each covered individual, or covered dependent of such  
25 covered individual, within the group is a qualified individual.

26 (12) "Children's Preventive Health Care Services" means physician-  
27 delivered or physician-supervised services for eligible dependents from birth  
28 through age six (6), with periodic physical examinations including medical  
29 history, physical examination, developmental assessment, anticipatory guidance  
30 and appropriate immunizations and laboratory tests, in keeping with prevailing  
31 medical standards for the purposes of this section; and

32 (13) "Periodic Physical Examinations" means the routine tests and  
33 procedures for the purpose of detection of abnormalities or malfunctions of  
34 bodily systems and parts according to accepted medical practice.

35

36 SECTION 3. ISSUANCE OF MINIMUM BASIC BENEFIT POLICIES PERMITTED.

1 Insurers are hereby authorized to issue minimum basic benefit policies  
2 pursuant to and in compliance with the provisions of this act to qualified  
3 *individuals, qualified families, qualified trusts, and qualified groups. This*  
4 *act shall apply* only to those minimum basic benefit policies issued under this  
5 act and regulations issued by the commissioner pursuant to the authority of  
6 this act. Nothing in this act shall be deemed to add to, detract from, or in  
7 any manner apply to policies, subscription contracts, benefits, or related  
8 activities under any other statutory, or regulatory authorities.

9

10 SECTION 4. FORMATION OF QUALIFIED GROUPS SOLELY FOR INSURANCE PURPOSES.

11 Solely for purposes of obtaining minimum basic benefit policies pursuant to  
12 the authority granted by this act, trusts may be formed composed of qualified  
13 individuals, qualified families, and/or qualified groups. Each trust may  
14 serve as a master policy holder. Members of qualified groups and members of  
15 such trusts may join together solely for the purpose of obtaining health  
16 insurance coverage under the provisions of this act; *provided, the*  
17 *Commissioner shall adopt rules and regulations governing the formation and*  
18 *operation of such trust to assure the protection of persons purchasing*  
19 *policies pursuant to this act.*

20

21 SECTION 5. COVERAGE REQUIRED UNDER POLICIES ISSUED PURSUANT TO THIS  
22 ACT. (a) Minimum basic benefit policies offered under the authority of this  
23 act shall provide basic levels of primary, preventive, and hospital care,  
24 including, but not limited to, the following:

25 (1) Fifteen (15) days of inpatient hospitalization coverage per  
26 policy year; and

27 (2) As an option, prenatal care, including one prenatal office  
28 visit per month during the first two trimesters of pregnancy, two office  
29 visits per month during the seventh and eighth months of pregnancy, and one  
30 office visit per week during the ninth month until term. Coverage for each  
31 such visit shall include necessary and appropriate screening, including  
32 history, physical examination, and such laboratory and diagnostic procedures  
33 as may be deemed appropriate by the physician based upon recognized medical  
34 criteria for the risk group of which the patient is a member. Coverage for  
35 each office visit shall also include such prenatal counseling as the physician

1 deems appropriate; and

2           (3) As an option, obstetrical care, including physicians'  
3 services, delivery room and other medically necessary hospital services; and

4           (4) As an option, coverage for children's preventive health care  
5 services on a periodic basis from birth through age six (6) including thirteen  
6 (13) visits at approximately the following age intervals: birth, two (2)  
7 months, four (4) months, six (6) months, nine (9) months, twelve (12) months,  
8 fifteen (15) months, eighteen (18) months, two (2) years, three (3) years,  
9 four (4) years, five (5) years, and six (6) years. The option may provide  
10 that children's preventive health care services which are rendered during a  
11 periodic review shall only be covered to the extent that these services are  
12 provided by or under the supervision of a single physician during the course  
13 of one (1) visit; and, that such benefits shall be reimbursed at levels  
14 established by the commissioner which shall not exceed those established for  
15 the same services under the medicaid program in the State of Arkansas.

16 Copayment and deductible amounts shall not be greater than copayments and  
17 deductibles imposed for other physician's office visits; and

18           (5) A basic level of primary and preventive care, including two (2)  
19 office visits per calendar year for covered services rendered by a provider  
20 licensed to provide the services rendered; and

21           (6) Annual, lifetime or other benefit limits in amounts not less  
22 than may be established by the commissioner but which initially shall be not  
23 less than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) as an annual benefit, and  
24 two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) as a lifetime benefit; and

25           (7) Such waiting period, if any, as the commissioner may  
26 establish for transferring from any minimum basic benefit policy issued under  
27 this act by one insurer to a minimum basic benefit policy issued under this  
28 act by another insurer; and

29           (8) Every policy issued pursuant to this act which covers the  
30 insured and members of the insured's family shall include coverage for newborn  
31 infant children of the insured from the moment of birth, and for adopted  
32 minors from the date of the interlocutory decree of adoption, provided, the  
33 insurer may require that the insured give notice to his insurer of any newborn  
34 children within ninety (90) days following the birth of such newborn infant  
35 and of any adopted child within sixty (60) days of the date the insured has

1 filed a petition to adopt. The coverage of newborn children or adopted  
2 children shall not be less than the same as is provided for other members of  
3 the insured's family; and

4 (9) Such provisions, if any, as the commissioner may require for  
5 an annual or other deductible or equivalent; patient co-payments, including a  
6 differential, if any, for non-preferred providers; annual stop loss amounts;  
7 continuation of coverage; conversion; replacement of prior carrier's coverage;  
8 exclusionary periods for pre-existing conditions; and continuation of  
9 benefits.

10 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 5.(a) of this act, the  
11 commissioner shall consider the cost impact and essential nature of each of  
12 such requirements as well as the competitive impact of such requirements, and  
13 may vary any of such requirements, add, fix or remove requirements or establish  
14 alternative benefit methods to encourage participation of insurers in a manner  
15 consistent with meeting the goal of providing minimum basic health services at  
16 an affordable price to those eligible for coverage under this act.

17 (c) The commissioner may authorize a waiver of any of the policy  
18 provisions required pursuant to this Section 5 or the commissioner's authority  
19 under this section in order to authorize a minimum basic benefit policy to be  
20 issued as a medicaid supplement without requiring redundant coverage.

21 (d) Any minimum basic benefit policy issued pursuant to the provisions  
22 of this act may be issued without the provision of the benefits or  
23 requirements mandated by the following statutes of the State of Arkansas to  
24 be included in or offered to be included in disability insurance or health  
25 maintenance organization policies or subscription contracts, or regulations  
26 issued pursuant to such statutes: Ark. Code Ann. 23-79-129, 23-79-130, 23-79-  
27 137, 23-79-139, 23-79-140, 23-79-141, 23-85-131(b), 23-85-137, 23-86-108(4) and  
28 (7), 23-86-113, 23-86-114, 23-86-115, 23-86-116, and 23-86-118; provided,  
29 nothing in this act shall reduce any professional scope of practice as defined  
30 in the licensure law for any health care provider, shall authorize any  
31 discrimination not permitted under Arkansas law in payment or reimbursement  
32 for services, or shall be construed to repeal or eliminate the application of  
33 the Arkansas freedom of choice legislation, Ark. Code. Ann. 23-79-114, or  
34 coordination of benefit statutes or regulations, to policies issued pursuant  
35 to this act.

1

2 SECTION 6. NOTICE OF MINIMUM BASIC BENEFIT POLICIES; PAYROLL DEDUCTION.

3 (a) Those employers in the State of Arkansas that do not provide a  
4 portion of the cost of health insurance for their employees shall provide  
5 notice to their employees of the existence of the minimum basic benefit policy  
6 authorized by this act. Such notice shall be in a form prepared by the  
7 commissioner and may be provided to employees by posting at the place of  
8 employment or in any other reasonable manner.

9 (b) Any insured, or dependent of an insured, under this act may provide  
10 written request to his or her employer to withhold the amount of premium on a  
11 minimum basic benefit policy from his or her paycheck along with written  
12 instructions for remittance of the premium, in which case the employer shall  
13 withhold the premium and remit the premium payment to the insurer, unless to  
14 do so would require the employer to make remittances to more than three  
15 different insurers.

16 (c) No employer required to make a remittance of a premium under the  
17 provisions of this act shall be required to make such remittances more often  
18 than once per month.

19 (d) Nothing in this act shall be construed to require or mandate in any  
20 way that an employer provide or pay any portion of the cost of a minimum basic  
21 benefit policy issued under this act.

22 (e) The Arkansas Employment Security *Division*, upon request by the  
23 commissioner, is authorized to provide a copy of the form of notice prepared  
24 by the commissioner to employers as the commissioner and the Arkansas  
25 Employment Security Department may agree upon.

26

27 SECTION 7. DISCRETIONARY MANAGED CARE PROVISIONS. (a) The insurer may  
28 include any or all of the following managed care provisions to control the  
29 cost of a minimum basic benefit policy issued pursuant to this act:

30 (1) An exclusion for services that are not medically necessary;

31 (2) A procedure for pre-authorization by telephone, to be  
32 confirmed in writing, by the insurer or its designee of any medical service  
33 the cost of which is anticipated to exceed a minimum threshold, except for  
34 services necessary to treat a medical emergency;

35 (3) A preferred panel of providers who have entered into written

1 agreements with the insurer to provide services at specified levels of  
 2 reimbursement. With the exception of health maintenance organizations,  
 3 participation in such preferred panel shall be open to all providers licensed  
 4 to provide the services to be covered. Any such written agreement between a  
 5 provider and an insurer shall contain a provision under which the parties  
 6 agree that the insured individual or covered member will have no obligation to  
 7 make payment for any medical service rendered by the provider that is  
 8 determined not to be medically necessary; provided, however, that charges for  
 9 medically necessary services received by the insured which are not covered by  
 10 the minimum basic benefit policy shall be considered the responsibility of the  
 11 insured; and

12 (4) A provision under which any insured who obtains medical  
 13 services from a non preferred provider shall receive reimbursement only in the  
 14 amount that would have been received had services been rendered by a preferred  
 15 provider, less a differential, if any, in an amount to be approved by the  
 16 commissioner but which may not exceed twenty-five percent (25%); provided,  
 17 however, that charges for medically necessary services received by the insured  
 18 which are not covered by the minimum basic benefit policy shall be considered  
 19 the responsibility of the insured; and

20 (b) Nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit an insurer from  
 21 including in a minimum basic benefit policy other managed care and cost  
 22 control provisions which, subject to the approval of the commissioner, have  
 23 the potential to control costs in a manner which does not result in  
 24 inequitable treatment of an insured under this act.

25

26 SECTION 8. DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR MINIMUM BASIC BENEFIT POLICIES.

27 (a) Before any insurer issues a minimum basic benefit policy, it shall  
 28 obtain from the prospective insured a signed written statement, in a form  
 29 approved by the commissioner, in which the prospective insured:

30 (1) Certifies as to eligibility for coverage under the minimum  
 31 basic benefit policy;

32 (2) Acknowledges the limited nature of the coverage provided and  
 33 an understanding of the managed care and cost control features of the minimum  
 34 basic benefit policy;

35 (3) Acknowledges that if misrepresentations are made regarding

1 the insured's eligibility for coverage under a minimum basic benefit policy  
2 that the person making such misrepresentation shall forfeit coverage provided  
3 by the minimum basic benefit policy; and

4 (4) Acknowledges that the prospective insured, at the time of  
5 application for the minimum basic benefit policy, was offered the opportunity  
6 to purchase health insurance coverage which would have included all mandated  
7 or mandated optional benefits required by Arkansas law and that the  
8 prospective insured rejected such coverage.

9 (b) A copy of such written statement shall be provided to the  
10 prospective insured no later than at the time of minimum basic benefit policy  
11 delivery, and the original of such written statement shall be retained by the  
12 insurer for the longer of the period of time in which the minimum basic  
13 benefit policy remains in effect or five (5) years.

14 (c) At the time coverage under a minimum basic benefit policy shall  
15 take effect for an insured, the insurer shall provide such insured with a  
16 written disclosure statement containing such information as the commissioner  
17 shall require and in a form approved by the commissioner. The disclosure  
18 statement shall be separate from the insurance policy or evidence of coverage  
19 provided to such insured. The disclosure statement shall contain at least the  
20 following information:

21 (1) An explanation of those mandated or mandated optional  
22 benefits not covered by the minimum basic benefit policy but which would  
23 otherwise be required to be provided under Arkansas law;

24 (2) An explanation of the managed care and cost control features  
25 of the minimum basic benefit policy, along with all appropriate mailing  
26 addresses and telephone numbers to be utilized by the insured in seeking  
27 information or authorization, as well as a list of any preferred providers  
28 then contracting with the insurer, and an explanation of the obligations of  
29 the providers and the insured with regard to services determined not to be  
30 medically necessary; and

31 (3) An explanation of the primary and preventive care features of  
32 the minimum basic benefit policy.

33 (d) Any material statement made by an applicant for coverage under a  
34 minimum basic benefit policy which falsely certifies as to the applicant's  
35 eligibility for coverage under a minimum basic benefit policy shall serve as



1 the basis for termination of coverage under any minimum basic benefit policy  
2 issued to such applicant.

3

4 SECTION 9. FORMS, RATES, MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS TO BE FILED WITH AND  
5 APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONER. (a) All minimum basic benefit policy forms,  
6 including applications, enrollment forms, policies, certificates, evidences of  
7 coverage, riders, amendments, endorsements, disclosure forms, and marketing  
8 communications used in connection with the sale or advertisement of a minimum  
9 basic benefit policy shall be submitted to the commissioner for approval in  
10 the same manner as required by Ark. Code Ann. Sec. 23-79-109 (a) or Ark. Code  
11 Ann. Sec. 23-76-112 (a).

12 (b) *Minimum basic benefit policies are subject to the filing and*  
13 *approval statutes, rules and regulations of the state. No rate shall be*  
14 *considered reasonable nor shall it be approved unless:*

15 (1) *It is based upon a pool, community rating, or other rating*  
16 *formula acceptable to the commissioner; and*

17 (2) *As to individual policies and policies issued to qualified*  
18 *trusts, it is likely to produce a loss ratio, as certified by a qualified*  
19 *actuary, which is acceptable to the Commissioner, but in no event shall such*  
20 *loss ratio be less than sixty-five percent (65%); provided the Commissioner*  
21 *may set a minimum loss ratio for group policies issued pursuant to this act if*  
22 *he determines that inequitable or unfair treatment of policyholders would*  
23 *otherwise result.*

24 (c) *To the extent that an insurer has a surplus in a given year which*  
25 *has been generated on minimum basic benefit policies issued pursuant to this*  
26 *Act to a qualified group by a loss ratio of less than seventy-five percent*  
27 *(75%) or issued pursuant to this Act to qualified individuals, qualified*  
28 *families or qualified trusts by a loss ratio of less than sixty-five percent*  
29 *(65%), that surplus shall be taken into consideration in setting rates in*  
30 *following years in such manner as to benefit the holders of such minimum basic*  
31 *benefit policies.*

32 (d) *The commissioner may require that as to each minimum basic benefit*  
33 *policy approved, the insurer provide a statement of the portion of the rate or*  
34 *premium applicable to the minimum basic benefit policy coverage required by*  
35 *this act, or the commissioner pursuant to this act, or such other information*

1 as the commissioner may require so that prospective purchasers of policies  
2 pursuant to this act may have an ability to make a direct comparison of the  
3 cost of the minimum basic benefits within policies of the same class issued by  
4 different insurers. The commissioner may include rate comparison or other  
5 cost information in the form of notice which may be provided by the  
6 commissioner to employers pursuant to this act.

7  
8 SECTION 10. NOTICES AND HEARINGS. The commissioner shall provide  
9 notice and conduct hearings in accordance with the Arkansas Administrative  
10 Procedures Act, Ark. Code Ann. 25-15-201 et seq. before adopting any  
11 regulations of general applicability to minimum basic benefit policies to be  
12 issued pursuant to this act.

13  
14 SECTION 11. RECORD-KEEPING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR INSURERS.  
15 Each insurer issuing a minimum basic benefit policy in this state shall  
16 maintain separate and distinct records of enrollment, claim costs, premium  
17 income, utilization, and such other information as may be required by the  
18 commissioner. Each insurer providing a minimum basic benefit policy shall  
19 furnish an annual report to the commissioner in a form prescribed by the  
20 commissioner which shall contain such information as the commissioner may  
21 require to analyze the effect of insurance coverage issued pursuant to this  
22 act. The annual report required shall be in a form consistent with the forms,  
23 if any, adopted by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners for  
24 such purpose.

25  
26 SECTION 12. REPORT BY THE COMMISSIONER. The Insurance Commissioner is  
27 directed to make a written report by October 1, 1994 to the Governor and the  
28 General Assembly regarding the minimum basic benefit policies permitted by  
29 this act. In the report, the commissioner shall describe the extent to which  
30 minimum basic benefit policies have been purchased, the adequacy of the  
31 coverages under such policies and any recommendations by the commissioner with  
32 respect to the continuation, modification, or discontinuation of the minimum  
33 basic benefit policies permitted by this act.

34  
35

1 SECTION 13. ARKANSAS CODE ANNOTATED. All provisions of this act of a  
2 general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987  
3 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same  
4 in the Code.

5  
6 SECTION 14. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this act or the  
7 application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such  
8 invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which  
9 can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this  
10 end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

11  
12  
13 SECTION 15. APPLICATION TO OTHER LAWS. *This act shall be supplemental*  
14 *to all other laws governing the issuance of health insurance coverage;*  
15 *provided, to the extent any law or parts of any law are in conflict with the*  
16 *provisions of this act, the provisions of this act shall govern.*

17  
18 SECTION 16. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General  
19 Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the cost of health insurance coverage  
20 is not affordable for many small businesses, their employees, self employed  
21 persons and other individuals; and that as a result hundreds of thousands of  
22 Arkansas citizens do not have any health insurance coverage; and that this act  
23 is immediately necessary to authorize new classes of hospital and medical  
24 insurance coverage so that qualified groups, families and individuals can  
25 obtain insurance coverage. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to  
26 exist and this act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the  
27 public peace, health and safety shall be in full force and effect from and  
28 after its passage and approval.

29  
30  
31 /s/Insurance and Commerce Committee  
32  
33  
34  
35

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9