

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 83rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2001
4

As Engrossed: S1/17/01

A Bill

SENATE BILL 34

5 By: Senators B. Walker, Brown, Beebe
6 By: Representatives T. Steele, Bradford
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED DISTRIBUTION BY THE
11 ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH OF HIV/AIDS MEDICATION
12 TO ARKANSAS CITIZENS WITHOUT AMPLE RESOURCES OR
13 AVAILABLE AVENUES TO ACQUIRE MEDICATIONS; AND FOR
14 OTHER PURPOSES.
15

Subtitle

16 AN ACT TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED
17 DISTRIBUTION BY THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT
18 OF HEALTH OF HIV/AIDS MEDICATION TO
19 ARKANSAS CITIZENS WITHOUT AMPLE
20 RESOURCES OR AVAILABLE AVENUES TO
21 ACQUIRE MEDICATIONS.
22

23
24
25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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SECTION 1. TITLE.

27 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "HIV/AIDS Medications
28 Act of 2001".
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SECTION 2. PURPOSE.

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31 It is found and determined by the General Assembly that:

32 (1) The citizens of Arkansas suffering from HIV/AIDS should have access
33 to the latest drug therapies;
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35 (2) The continued spread of HIV is a danger to the public health of
36 Arkansas;

1 (3) Proper treatment of individuals living with HIV/AIDS who are
2 pregnant can significantly decrease the possibility of infecting their unborn
3 children;

4 (4) Infection rates among Arkansas citizens can be curtailed by the
5 proper administration of drug therapies to those infected with HIV/AIDS;

6 (5) The continued medical costs associated with HIV related illnesses
7 are a threat to the medical infrastructure of Arkansas;

8 (6) The quality of life of those individuals affected by HIV/AIDS, along
9 with their family members, can be enhanced through continuing drug therapies;

10 (7) There is a pressing and immediate need for the distribution of
11 medications for HIV/AIDS; and

12 (8) This act can help meet these needs by furnishing financial
13 assistance, subject to the availability of funds, to citizens of Arkansas
14 suffering from HIV/AIDS.

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16 SECTION 3. IMPLEMENTATION.

17 The State Board of Health shall promulgate regulations to provide for
18 the distribution of HIV/AIDS medications to Arkansas citizens without ample
19 resources or available avenues to acquire their medically necessary
20 medications.
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22 SECTION 4. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is hereby found and determined by the
23 Eighty-third General Assembly that there is a pressing and immediate need for
24 the distribution of medications for HIV/AIDS to alleviate suffering, to
25 protect pregnant women with HIV/AIDS and their unborn children and to prevent
26 severe damage to the medical infrastructure of Arkansas. Therefore, an
27 emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately necessary for
28 the preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall become effective
29 on the date of its approval by the Governor. If the bill is neither approved
30 nor vetoed by the Governor, it shall become effective on the expiration of the
31 period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill. If the bill is
32 vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, it shall become effective
33 on the date the last house overrides the veto.

34 */s/ B. Walker*
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