

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas  
89th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2013

As Engrossed: H3/28/13  
**A Bill**

HOUSE BILL 2097

By: Representative Murdock

### **For An Act To Be Entitled**

AN ACT TO IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY TO HEALTH CARE IN ARKANSAS BY CLARIFYING THE PROCESS NECESSARY FOR AN ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSE TO *QUALIFY* FOR PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### **Subtitle**

THE HEALTH CARE ACCESS IMPROVEMENT ACT.

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

*SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 23-79-114, concerning insurance payment for health services performed by professionals not licensed under the Arkansas Medical Practices Act, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:*

*(h)(1) Notwithstanding a provision of an individual or group policy of accident and health insurance or a provision of a policy, contract, plan, or agreement for hospital or medical service or indemnity, if a policy, contract, plan, or agreement provides for payment or reimbursement for a health service provided by an advanced practice nurse with prescriptive authority who is licensed under § 17-87-310 or a person licensed under the Arkansas Medical Practices Act, § 17-95-201 et seq., § 17-95-301 et seq., and § 17-95-401 et seq., the person entitled to benefits or the person providing health service under the policy, contract, plan, or agreement is entitled to payment or reimbursement for the health service on an equal basis for the service if the health service is provided by a person licensed as an advance practice nurse with prescriptive authority who is operating within his or her area of competence.*



(2) A person entitled to benefits under this subsection shall not be denied freedom of choice to select a practitioner licensed under the Arkansas Medical Practices Act, § 17-95-201 et seq., § 17-95-301 et seq., and § 17-95-401 et seq., or an advance practice nurse with prescriptive authority who is licensed under § 17-87-310, by an insurer or agency or an employee of the insurer or by a department, agency, or employee of this state.

(3) This subsection does not enlarge or diminish the scope of practice of an advance practice nurse under § 17-87-310.

(4) The purpose of this subsection is to ensure that a person licensed under the Arkansas Medical Practices Act, § 17-95-201 et seq., § 17-95-301 et seq., and § 17-95-401 et seq., or a person licensed as an advanced practice nurse under § 17-87-310 is entitled to the same method of payment for or reimbursement for health service on an equal basis for administering the same health service.

/s/Murdock