

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

State of Arkansas
89th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2013

A Bill

SENATE BILL 205

By: Senator J. Key

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO REPEAL OBSOLETE LAWS REGARDING MEDICARE
WAIVERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REPEAL OBSOLETE LAWS REGARDING
MEDICARE WAIVERS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 20-77-116 -- 20-77-118 are repealed.
~~20-77-116. Medicare waiver to authorize high reimbursements in
economically disadvantaged counties.~~

~~(a) The General Assembly finds that:~~

~~(1) Certain economically disadvantaged counties in this state
are in dire need of additional access to medical treatment;~~

~~(2) Improved access to medical treatment in economically
disadvantaged counties can be achieved by offering incentives to physicians
and health care facilities;~~

~~(3) If Medicare reimbursements were based on need for access to
care rather than on cost of living, the resulting increase in Medicare
reimbursements would make this state's economically disadvantaged counties
more attractive to physicians and would allow healthcare facilities in those
counties to upgrade their medical services; and~~

~~(4) As a result of increased Medicare reimbursements, more
patients in economically disadvantaged counties would seek early medical
treatment, thus reducing the severity of their medical conditions and the
expense of treatment.~~



~~(b) It is the purpose of this section, § 20-77-117, and § 20-77-118 to seek an incentive whereby the number of physicians may be increased and the quality of health care facilities may be improved in this state's economically disadvantaged counties.~~

~~20-77-117. "Economically disadvantaged county" defined.~~

~~For purposes of this section, § 20-77-116, and § 20-77-118, "economically disadvantaged county" means any county of this state in which twenty five percent (25%) or more of the population lives below the poverty level as defined by the federal government.~~

~~20-77-118. State-federal relationship.~~

~~(a) The Department of Human Services shall seek a Medicare reimbursement policy waiver or appropriate cooperative relationship with the federal government to permit Arkansas to create a ten-year demonstration project in this state's economically disadvantaged counties for the purpose of increasing the number of physicians and improving the health care facilities in those economically disadvantaged counties.~~

~~(b) The waiver application will request the Health Care Financing Administration of the United States Department of Health and Human Services to allow Medicare reimbursements for this state's economically disadvantaged counties to be set at the same rate as that of San Francisco.~~