

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

State of Arkansas  
91st General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2017

As Engrossed: H3/9/17 S3/30/17

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2014

By: Representatives Baltz, Farrer

By: Senator D. Sanders

## For An Act To Be Entitled

*AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOL LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE BOARD TO EXPLORE EMERGING THERAPIES AND COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF TREATMENTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.*

### Subtitle

*TO REQUIRE THE STATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOL LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE BOARD TO EXPLORE EMERGING THERAPIES AND COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF TREATMENT.*

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

*SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.*

*The General Assembly finds that:*

*(1) The State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Board has a fiduciary obligation to explore cost-effective treatments for its members;*

*(2) There are emerging technologies that could serve as cost-effective alternatives to surgical procedures; and*

*(3) Clinical organizations are increasingly providing public guidance on quality treatment practices.*

*SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 23, Chapter 79, is amended to add an additional subchapter to read as follows:*

*Subchapter 17 – Emerging Therapy Act of 2017*



23-79-1701. Title.

This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Emerging Therapy Act of 2017".

23-79-1702. Definitions.

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Board" means the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Board;

(2) "Choosing Wisely Initiative" means the initiative established by the American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation that seeks to advance a national dialogue on avoiding wasteful or unnecessary medical tests, treatments, and procedures;

(3) "Emerging therapies" means therapeutic services that have not historically been covered but for which new evidence may demonstrate therapeutic enhancements, opportunities for cost-avoidance, or both;

(4) "Evidence" means peer-reviewed objective studies of emerging therapies; and

(5) "Regenerative injection therapy" means a nonsurgical orthopedic treatment performed by injecting into a joint or soft tissue a substance that stimulates the growth of normal cells and tissues for the purpose of strengthening or repairing a painful or injured joint or connective tissue.

23-79-1703. State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Board – Requirements.

(a) By the end of plan year 2017, the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Board shall explore the evidence supporting opportunities for benefit modification informed by:

(1) The Choosing Wisely Initiative;

(2) Emerging therapies; and

(3) Therapeutic alternatives to invasive surgical procedures, such as regenerative injection therapy.

(b) By July of 2018, the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Board shall:

(1) Identify and consider implementation of pilot programs that include stepped therapy or center of excellence approaches, or both, for

which evidence demonstrates cost savings to the plan; and

(2) Identify opportunities to stimulate conversations between patients and providers about appropriate and necessary treatment, including treatment recommendations identified by the Choosing Wisely Initiative.

/s/Baltz