

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019
4
5 By: Senator K. Hammer
6

A Bill

SENATE BILL 624

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO REQUIRE PROCUREMENT OF CONSULTANT SERVICES
9 TO STUDY MEDICAL PROFESSION SCOPE OF PRACTICE; AND
10 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

14 TO REQUIRE PROCUREMENT OF CONSULTANT
15 SERVICES TO STUDY MEDICAL PROFESSION
16 SCOPE OF PRACTICE.

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

21 SECTION 1. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. Procurement of
22 consultant services – Medical profession scope of practice.

23 (a) The Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor and the
24 House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor shall meet jointly to
25 develop a request for proposals to procure the services of a consultant to
26 conduct a study of scope of practice for each medical profession in the State
27 of Arkansas.

28 (b) The purpose of the study is to recommend legislative changes to
29 medical profession scope of practice for the 2021 Regular Session and shall
30 include without limitation an analysis of:

- 31 (1) Healthcare needs in the state;
32 (2) Current medical profession scope of practice;
33 (3) Best practices for health care across the nation;
34 (4) Any authorization under federal law relating to medical
35 profession scope of practice, including without limitation a comparison of
36 Arkansas laws and federal laws that are either restrictive or permissive;



1 (5)(A) Rates of reimbursement nationally, including without
2 limitation Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement rates and how those compare
3 with rates of reimbursement to medical professionals in Arkansas.

4 (B) The comparison required under subdivision (b)(5)(A) of
5 this section shall include an analysis of the projected cost to increase
6 Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement rates for Arkansas medical professionals
7 to rates of reimbursement that are competitive with other states in order to
8 attract and retain medical professionals in Arkansas;

9 (6) The graduation rates of medical professionals from Arkansas
10 institutions of higher education and their subsequent state of residence for
11 practice in those medical professions;

12 (7) Any medical profession scope of practice limitations in
13 Arkansas that may be creating barriers to medical professionals' staying in
14 Arkansas or moving to Arkansas as compared with other states;

15 (8) Issues with accessibility to health care and to medical
16 professionals in areas of the state that are a result of limitations on
17 medical profession scope of practice, including a comparison with
18 accessibility issues that exist in other states; and

19 (9) The need for medical professionals in the state as compared
20 to the availability of medical professionals from Arkansas institutions of
21 higher education that provide medical profession training, including without
22 limitation an examination of the rates of graduation both currently and as
23 projected.

24 (c)(1) The Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor and
25 the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor shall carry out the
26 procurement process and select a consultant to contract with the Bureau of
27 Legislative Research to conduct the study.

28 (2) The consultant will have access to the assistance of the
29 Bureau of Legislative Research staff, but the bureau will not be responsible
30 for the outcome of the consultant's work.

31 (d)(1) The consultant selected and contracted with shall conduct the
32 study and report back to the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and
33 Labor and the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor with a
34 final written report of the consultant's findings and recommendations on or
35 before September 1, 2020.

36 (2) Upon receipt of the final report, the Senate Committee on

1 Public Health, Welfare, and Labor and the House Committee on Public Health,
2 Welfare, and Labor may adopt recommendations for legislative changes
3 regarding medical profession scope of practice and shall submit a report of
4 their findings and recommendations with the consultant's final report, to the
5 Legislative Council no later than October 1, 2020.

6 (e)(1)(A) Any request for information or to direct the consultant's
7 work shall be submitted to the Bureau of Legislative Research.

8 (B) The bureau will submit the requests to the Senate
9 Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor and the House Committee on
10 Public Health, Welfare, and Labor for their approval.

11 (2) An attempt to achieve a desired result in the work and final
12 report of the consultant that was not approved through the process set forth
13 in subsection (e)(1) of this section may subject a person to prosecution
14 under Arkansas Code § 5-54-102(a)(1).

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