

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

State of Arkansas
92nd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2019

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1918

By: Representatives K. Ferguson, F. Allen, M. Gray

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH CANCER PATIENT NAVIGATION TO
IMPROVE THE CARE OF CANCER PATIENTS IN THIS STATE;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO ESTABLISH CANCER PATIENT NAVIGATION TO
IMPROVE THE CARE OF CANCER PATIENTS IN
THIS STATE.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 15, Subchapter 2, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

20-15-206. Cancer patient navigation.

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Health disparity population" means a population that has significant disparity in the rate of cancer incidence, prevalence, morbidity, or survival rates as compared to the general population; and

(2) "Patient navigation" means the facilitating the care of patients through:

(A) Acting as contacts for individuals who are found to have a symptom, abnormal finding, or diagnosis of cancer following a screening or early detection service, including without limitation the assistance in the coordination of healthcare services and healthcare provider referrals;

(B) Facilitating the involvement of community organizations in assisting individuals who are at risk for or who have cancer



by creating partnerships with patient advocacy groups, charities, healthcare centers, community hospice centers, healthcare providers, or other organizations in the targeted community;

(C) Notifying individuals of clinical trials and if requested, facilitating enrollment in the clinical trials;

(D) Anticipating, identifying, and helping patients overcome barriers within the healthcare system to ensure prompt diagnostic and treatment resolution of an abnormal finding of cancer;

(E) Coordinating with a relevant health insurance ombudsman program to provide information to individuals who are at risk for or who have cancer about health coverage, including without limitation private insurance, healthcare savings accounts, the Arkansas Medicaid Program, and other publicly funded programs; and

(F) Conducting ongoing outreach to health disparity populations.

(b) The Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences may establish a comprehensive cancer patient navigation program to:

(1) Guide patients who are diagnosed with cancer through the healthcare system;

(2) Help patients who are diagnosed with cancer overcome physical, emotional, social, and financial barriers to receiving timely and efficient cancer treatment; and

(3) Improve care of patients who are diagnosed with cancer in this state.