

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

SENATE BILL 624

By: Senator K. Hammer

## For An Act To Be Entitled

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

### Subtitle

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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