

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

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1762

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

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE CANCER PREVENTION AND
CANCER PATIENT NAVIGATION ACT; AND TO
IMPROVE THE CARE OF CANCER PATIENTS IN
THIS STATE.

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

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Cancer Prevention and
Cancer Patient Navigation Act".

SECTION 2. 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
experiences a disproportionate rate of cancer screening, diagnosis,
incidence, prevalence, morbidity, mortality, survivorship, or related health
conditions associated with cancer as compared to the general population; and

(2) "Patient navigation" means the intervention designed to
assist patients from a health disparity population and caregivers with
obtaining care related to the prevention and treatment of cancer, such as



timely access to quality health care, social and psychological care from cancer prevention screening services or early detection services, cancer treatment, and follow-up care for survivors of cancer, through culturally sensitive care coordination and support that includes:

(A) Acting as contacts for individuals within a health disparity population who are found to have a symptom, physical sign, abnormal clinical 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 and service organizations to help individuals within a health disparity population who are at risk for or who have cancer or caregivers of individuals within a health disparity population who are at risk or who have cancer, or both to overcome barriers, which may include lack of social support, financial, or access to transportation, or difficulty in scheduling of healthcare appointments to accessing quality and timely healthcare services;

(C) Notifying individuals within a health disparity population 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 about health coverage to individuals within a health disparity population who are at risk for or who have cancer, including without limitation information about 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 at risk for or who are diagnosed with cancer through the healthcare system;

(2) Help patients who are at risk for or who are diagnosed with

cancer overcome physical, emotional, social, and financial barriers to receiving timely and effective cancer treatment;

(3) Improve care of patients who are at risk for or who are diagnosed with cancer in this state; and

(4) Establish a billing code for patient navigation reimbursement.