

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

State of Arkansas  
95th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: H1/16/25  
**A Bill**

HOUSE BILL 1009

Representatives A. Collins, T. Shephard, Springer

### **For An Act To Be Entitled**

AN ACT TO ALLOW PREGNANCY TO BE A QUALIFYING EVENT FOR ENROLLMENT IN CERTAIN HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS; TO AUTHORIZE THE ARKANSAS MEDICAID PROGRAM TO MAKE PRESUMPTIVE ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS FOR PREGNANT WOMEN; TO ALLOW PREGNANCY TO BE A QUALIFYING EVENT FOR ENROLLMENT IN THE STATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOL LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### **Subtitle**

TO ALLOW PREGNANCY TO BE A QUALIFYING EVENT FOR ENROLLMENT IN CERTAIN HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 77, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

20-77-154. Presumptive eligibility for pregnant women.

(a) The Arkansas Medicaid Program shall make presumptive eligibility determinations for pregnant women who are applying for the program to improve access to prenatal care and to allow prenatal care to be delivered immediately while waiting for a full program application to be processed.

(b) The program may designate one (1) or more qualified entities to screen for eligibility and immediately enroll pregnant women into the program.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 21, Chapter 5, Subchapter 4, is amended



to add an additional section to read as follows:

21-5-425. Pregnancy – Qualifying event.

An employee or a dependent of an employee who previously declined enrollment in the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Program is eligible to enroll in the program as a result of pregnancy as a qualifying event.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 23, Chapter 85, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

23-85-141. Pregnancy – Qualifying event.

An insurer issuing or renewing a policy under this chapter shall allow an individual to enroll in the policy as a result of pregnancy as a qualifying event.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code Title 23, Chapter 86, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

23-86-124. Pregnancy – Qualifying event.

An insurer issuing or renewing a policy under this chapter shall allow an individual to enroll in the policy as a result of pregnancy as a qualifying event.

SECTION 5. DO NOT CODIFY. EFFECTIVE DATE. This act is effective on and after January 1, 2026.

*/s/A. Collins*