

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

A Bill

SENATE BILL 348

By: Senator C. Penzo
By: Representative Pilkington

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE ANNUAL CAP FOR DIAGNOSTIC
LABORATORY SERVICES WITHIN THE ARKANSAS MEDICAID
PROGRAM; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE ANNUAL CAP FOR DIAGNOSTIC
LABORATORY SERVICES WITHIN THE ARKANSAS
MEDICAID PROGRAM; AND TO DECLARE AN
EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 20-77-147(b), concerning reimbursement for diagnostic laboratory services is amended to read as follows:

(b) The program shall set the annual cap for:

(1) Diagnostic laboratory services, not including radiology services, of at least:

(A) Five ~~five~~ hundred dollars (\$500); or

(B) One thousand eight hundred dollars (\$1,800) if the beneficiary is diagnosed with chronic pain or is being treated for pain management; and

(2) Radiology services of at least five hundred dollars (\$500).

SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. Initial rules.

(a) The Department of Human Services shall promulgate rules necessary to implement this act.



(b) When adopting the initial rules to implement this act, the final rules shall be filed with the Secretary of State for adoption under § 25-15-204(f):

(1) On or before January 1, 2026; or

(2) If approval under § 10-3-309 has not occurred by January 1, 2026, as soon as practicable after approval under § 10-3-309.

(c) The department shall file the proposed rules with the Legislative Council under § 10-3-309(c) sufficiently in advance of January 1, 2026, so that the Legislative Council may consider the rules for approval before January 1, 2026.

SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that there is an urgent need to improve efficiency in diagnostic laboratory services within the Arkansas Medicaid Program; that beneficiaries of the Arkansas Medicaid Program are currently not being monitored adequately due to the low annual reimbursement cap on diagnostic laboratory services; that inadequate monitoring due to the low annual reimbursement cap on diagnostic laboratory services contributes to the opioid epidemic through misuse and diversion of medications; that inadequate monitoring due to the low annual reimbursement cap on diagnostic laboratory services also contributes to increased emergency room visits; that the Department of Human Services needs adequate time to draft rules, federal waivers, Medicaid state plan amendments, or other authorization to ensure that this act can be effective; and that this act is necessary to ensure the health and safety of beneficiaries of the Arkansas Medicaid Program and to enhance the patient care for beneficiaries of the Arkansas Medicaid Program. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on July 1, 2025.