

Act 922 (HB1801) APPROVED 3/29/1999

By: Representatives Horn, Agee, Ammons, Angel, Bookout, Dees, Ferrell, C. Johnson, Judy, Madison, Wilkins

For An Act To Be Entitled "AN ACT TO PROVIDE TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS WITH HOSPICE CARE COVERAGE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Subtitle "AN ACT TO PROVIDE TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS WITH HOSPICE CARE COVERAGE."

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

SECTION 1

(a)

(1) Every health insurance company, hospital service corporation, health maintenance organization, or other health insurance provider in the State of Arkansas shall offer, to each master group contract holder, coverage for hospice facilities and hospice programs as defined under Arkansas Code 20-7-117.

(2)(A) The offer of these benefits shall be subject to the right of the policy or contract holder to reject the coverage.

(B) The rejection by the policy or contract holder shall be in writing.

(b) The insurance coverage required in subsection (a) of this act shall provide terminally ill patients with coverage for prognosis and treatment of at least the rates of reimbursement as are provided for hospice care under Medicare, the Health Insurance for the Aged Act, Title XVIII of the Social Security Amendments of 1965, as in effect January 1, 1999.

(c) This section does not apply to contracts or policies providing disability income insurance, specified disease insurance, hospital indemnity insurance, long-term care insurance, short-term limited duration insurance, accident only insurance, Medicare supplement insurance, or all other supplemental insurance.

SECTION 2. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

SECTION 3. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

SECTION 4. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.