



*Comprehensive Review of 2005 Legislation  
from the Arkansas 85<sup>th</sup> General Assembly*

Tracked according to ACHI's areas of interest:

- Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
- Health Care Financing
- Access to Quality Care

Reviewed July, 2005

Legend:

Green - Passed legislation

Red - Failed, withdrawn or died on calendar legislation

Orange - Legislation recommended for study in the Interim Study

**This list was complete as of July 2005. Bills filed with the Arkansas General Assembly are subject to amendment, defeat, withdrawal, or passage.**

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## *Health Promotion and Disease Prevention*

### **SB2**

*An act to provide physical education course credit for participation in school sports activities; and for other purposes.*

**Action: Now Act 660**

Senators: Womack, G. Jeffress

Representatives: Key, Norton, Cooper, Walters, Everett

**Summary:** An act to allow students to be eligible to receive ½ physical education credit for participating in an organized sport in their school.

### **SB166**

*An act to repeal the requirement that school districts include as part of a student's report the student's annual body mass index percentile and other information; and for other purposes.*

**Action: Died on the Senate Committee on Education calendar**

Senator Hendren

**Summary:** This bill seeks to strip the BMI reporting requirements to parents contained in Act 1220.

### **SB185**

*An act to amend the requirements for physical education of public school students; and for other purposes.*

**Action: Died on the Senate Committee on Education calendar**

Senator G. Jeffress

**Summary:** An act requires fifty minutes per week for physical education training/instruction for students in grades seven through 12 and forty minutes of physical educational/training for students in kindergarten through sixth grade.

### **SB326**

*An act to create an acute stroke care task force; to coordinate statewide efforts to combat the deliberating effects of strokes on Arkansans; to improve health care for stroke victims; and for other purposes.*

**Action: Now Act 663**

Senator Steele

Representatives: J. Martin, Borhauer, Bright, D., Creekmore, S. Prater

**Summary:** An act to create the Acute Stroke Care Task Force through the Department of Health to raise public awareness regarding strokes and stroke prevention. Awareness programs and recommendations for funding will be made to the State Board of Health.

### **SB431**

*An act to establish the Arkansas Pharmaceutical Connection Program; and for other purposes.*

**Action: Withdrawn by author**

Senators: Salmon, Laverty

**Summary:** The Department of Human Services shall administer the Arkansas Pharmaceutical Connection Program, which was created to assist the elderly and uninsured with access to manufacturer-sponsored prescription drug programs.

### **SB578**

*An act to protect the health of Arkansas Citizens in rural communities; to expand the opportunities for nurses to receive graduate education through the student loan and scholarship program; and for other purposes.*

**Action: Now Act 1468**

Senator Horn

**Summary:** Establishes a Graduate Education Loan and Scholarship Board to obtain more advanced nurses to serve in rural communities.

**SB883**

*An act to authorize city councils and quorum courts to create or assist with the continuation of established area injury prevention programs to educate and assist individuals about injury prevention; to authorize courts to allocate funds to finance the program; and for other purposes.*

**Action: Withdrawn by author**

Senator J. Bookout

**Summary:** Act to establish a community-based or region-based injury program to educate and support safety devices to the public at no charge. This program will provide basic traffic safety, child passenger safety, seat belt usage, house fires, fall prevention and other injury sources.

**SB965**

*An act to provide statewide standards for school lunch programs and for other purposes*

**Action: Now Act 2285**

Senator Steele

**Summary:** An act establishing that the school nutrition and physical activity advisory committees created by Act 1220 of 2003 will provide recommendations on a quarterly basis to the school district concerning menus and other foods sold in school.

**SB967**

*An act to amend the law regarding medical assistance for indigent persons; and for other purposes.*

**Action: Died on the Senate Public Health, Welfare, and Labor Committee calendar**

Senators: Wooldridge, J. Bookout, Critcher

Representative Bradford

**Summary:** Act to determine rules for the indigent medical care program and states how providers will be reviewed that participates in the program.

**SB976**

*An act to provide natural, alternative healthcare options for the people of Arkansas; to broaden the range of healthy options in this state; and for other purposes.*

**Action: Died on the Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee calendar**

Senator Altes

**Summary:** Act to establish guidelines for natural or alternative medicine in Arkansas. This would allow residents of Arkansas to obtain new and innovative medications for extend healthcare options.

**SB1097**

*An act to establish the model school wellness program within the Department of Health; and for other purposes.*

**Action: Recommended for study in the Interim Committee on Public Health**

Senator Womack

**Summary:** The Department of Health shall establish a "Model School Wellness" Program in selected public school districts that will focus on encouraging students to establish and maintain healthy lifestyles. Programs will include tobacco prevention education and the promoting of balanced dietary patterns and physical activity.

**SB1122**

*An act to protect children's health; to prohibit smoking in restaurants that cater to, direct advertising toward, or provide other attractions for children; and for other purposes.*

**Action: Died on the Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee calendar**

Senator Steele

**Summary:** Act to reduce the extent to which children are exposed to tobacco smoke in facilities that cater to or provide services to children.

**SB1125**

*An act to provide statewide standards for and oversight of school lunch programs; and for other purposes.*

**Action: Died on the Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee calendar**

Senator Steele

**Summary:** Act to mandate no elementary, middle school, junior high, or high school may serve lunch to students unless the menu has been submitted to and approved by the Department of Health.

[SB1140](#)

*An act to revise tobacco laws; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Recommended for study in the Interim Committee on Public Health**

Senator Faris

**Summary:** Act to regulate the sale of tobacco to minors and to provide monitored supervision and control of the sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products.

[HB1031](#)

*An act to allow donated prescription medications to be dispensed to patients at charitable clinics; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Now Act 162**

Representatives: Mahony, Medley, Pate, Abernathy, Bond, Borhauer, Boyd, Creekmore, D. Evans, Key, Mathis, S. Prater, Roebuck, Saunders, L. Smith, Thomason, Walters, Mack, Petrus, Rainey, Wood

Senators: Horn, Womack, Baker, Broadway, Higginbotham, T. Smith, Salmon, Bryles

**Summary:** Allows the dispensing of unused prescription medication to low income people at charitable clinic pharmacy. The Department of Human Services will be responsible for this program. The medication will be free of charge and the patient will have to have a valid prescription. This medication may be transferred from a nursing facility to a charitable clinic. There will be a pilot program to monitor how the process of dispensing medication will occur.

[HB1079](#)

*An act to create the offense of child abuse by prenatal exposure to a controlled substance; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Died on the House Judiciary Committee calendar**

Representative T. Hutchinson

**Summary:** Act that defines a child, controlled substance and abuse. It is an offense to expose a child to a controlled substance during the prenatal period.

[HB1193](#)

*An act to prohibit the use of tobacco products in and on the grounds of all medical facilities in Arkansas; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Now Act 134**

Representatives: Bradford, Bright, Roebuck

**Summary:** By prohibiting the use of tobacco in medical facilities will reduce the harmful exposure to tobacco. The exception is if treatment will be impaired to an inpatient due to the nonuse of tobacco, the treating physician may submit a written order for the patient to use tobacco.

[HB1204](#)

*An act to provide physical education course credit for participation in school sports activities; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Withdrawn by author**

Representative Wood

**Summary:** Students in grades nine through twelve who are members of the Arkansas National Guard or Reserves during the summer before their senior year and complete their training will be granted 1 credit for physical education and 1 credit for health and safety education.

[HB1241](#)

*An act to establish an RX program; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Now Act 538**

Representatives: McDaniel, Medley, Bradford, J. Johnson, Thyer, Dunn, Borhauer, Davis, Edwards, Flowers, Kidd, J. Martin, Ragland, L. Smith, Thompson, Willis

**Summary:** Establishes the Arkansas Rx program, providing that the Arkansas DHS shall administer the program and use factory rebates and pharmacy discounts to reduce prescription drug costs.

### [HB1530](#)

*An act to provide for the transfer of a portion of interest income earned on treasury investments to the Arkansas Prostate Cancer Foundation, The Breast Cancer Research Fund, and The Breast Cancer Control Fund; and for other purposes.*

**Action: Died on the Joint Budget Committee calendar**

Representatives: Sample, Elliott

**Summary:** Describes how the interest earned, during an fiscal through June 30, 2006, will be distributed to the Arkansas Prostate Cancer Foundation, The Breast Cancer Research Fund and The Breast Cancer Control Fund.

### [HB1734](#)

*An to mandate eye and vision screening procedures and tests for children; To continue the Arkansas Commission on eye and vision care of school age children; and for other purposes.*

**Action: Now Act 1438**

Representatives: S. Prater, Berry, Borhauer, Bright, Elliot, L. Evans, Goss, Hardy, Key, McDaniel, Pace, Ragland, Reep, Roebuck, Sumpster, Willis, Wood

Senators: J. Bookout, Critcher, Faris, Horn, Steele, Womack

**Summary:** Act to require school districts to give eye and vision screening exams to grades kindergarten, two, four, six, eight grades, and all transfer students. It is the responsibility of the school district to enforce the screening. It also describes what is included in a vision screening and eye exam.

### [HB1823](#)

*An act to be known as the "Commonsense Consumption Act"; to limit liability claims relating to weight gain and obesity; to provide nutritional information to the public; and for other purposes.*

**Action: Failed in Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee**

Representatives: Ledbetter, Bradford, J. Johnson, Pace, Walters

**Summary:** To provider protection to the food industry against lawsuits form a person gaining weight or obesity and to assist the public on obtaining nutritional information regarding the food in the restaurant and how it is prepared for consumption.

### [HB1883](#)

*An act to protect the health of the citizens of Arkansas; to ban the smoking of tobacco products in food service establishments in Arkansas*

**Action: Failed in House**

Representatives Bradford, Ledbetter

Senators Malone, Miller, Steele

**Summary:** Smoking shall be prohibited in all food service establishments that earn more than 30% of their gross revenue from food sales. **NOTE:**Name change of bill to the *Dr. Fay Boozman Clean Air in Restaurants for a Healthier Arkansas Act.*

### [HB1946](#)

*An act to create the consumer directed care act; to exempt home health maintenance activities from the nurse practice act; and for other purposes.*

**Action: Now Act 1440**

Representatives: S. Prater, Borhauer, and Goss

Senator Laverty

**Summary:** Act to establish a consumer act that would not exempt certain practices of health care and nursing.

### [HB2627](#)

*An act to require certain public water supplies to maintain a level of fluoride to prevent tooth decay; and for other purposes.*

**Action: Failed in Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor**

Representative Roebuck

**Summary:** To promote public health through prevention of tooth decay, whenever the fluoride content of water supplies serving five thousand or more people provides less than seven-tenths of a milligram per liter of fluoride. The individual or organization over a water supply, whether publicly or privately owned or operated, will control the quantities of fluoride in the water to maintain a fluoride content prescribed by the Department of Health.

### [HB2684](#)

*An act to prohibit smoking in or near state buildings.*

**Action:** **Failed in House**

Representative Ledbetter

**Summary:** Prohibits smoking in or on any property, including vehicles, owned or leased by any state agency. Does not apply to residential properties or any state –owned lands.

### [HB2715](#)

*An act to establish conditions under the community match loan program by which a physician may practice a designated specialty in a qualified rural community; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Now Act 1682**

Representative Childers

**Summary:** The Arkansas Rural Medical Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Board shall provide one-half of the community match loan, and the qualified rural community shall provide the other one-half of the loan.

### [HB2727](#)

*An act to prohibit the possession, sale, or use of bottle rockets..*

**Action:** **Failed in Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee**

Representative Bradford

**Summary:** Prohibits the possession, sale, and use of the common fireworks devices customarily known as “bottle rockets” within the state.

### [HB2781](#)

*The Colorectal Cancer Act of 2005; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Now ACT 2236**

Representative Elliott

Senators: Steele, Critcher, Whitaker

**Summary:** Act to fund innovative research for Colorectal Cancer and the dissemination of successful research findings with special emphasis on research that complements rather than duplicates the research funded by the federal government and other entities.

### [HB2788](#)

*An act to prescribe limitations for young children on motorcycles; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Now Act 1942**

Representative Bradford

**Summary:** The purpose of this act is to prescribe limitations for young children on motorcycles.

### [HB2855](#)

*An act to be known as the "Eye Protection Act of 2005"*

**Action:** **Now Act 1688**

Representative Matayo

**Summary:** Act to mandate that no person can implant jewelry into the mucous membrane of the eye of another person. The State Board of Optometry may authorize and regulate the practice of implanting jewelry into the mucous membrane of an eye.

### [HB2867](#)

*An act to prohibit the State Medicaid Program from requiring beneficiaries to fail first on any drug on the preferred drug list before providing prior authorization to treat Asthma attacks or other respiratory failure; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Now ACT 2251**

Representative Goss

**Summary:** The state Medicaid program may not require a fail-first policy in any manner on any drug on the preferred drug list before providing prior authorization to treat the emergency medical condition of acute respiratory bronchi spasms.

**HB2892**

*An act to require a pharmacy to report transactions involving Ephedrine, Pseudoephedrine, and Phenylpropanolamine to the Department of Health; and for other purposes.*

**Action: Died on the Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee calendar**

Representative Dobbins

**Summary:** The purpose of this act is to require a pharmacy to report its written or electronic log or receipts of transactions involving the sale of Ephedrine, Pseudoephedrine, or Phenylpropanolamine to the Director of the Department of Health.

**HB2940**

*An act to extend the operations of the Legislative Health Adequacy Committee; and for other purposes.*

**Action: Now ACT 2261**

Representative J. Johnson

**Summary:** The Legislative Health Adequacy Committee shall expire on December 31, 2007.

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## Health Care Financing

### [SB43](#)

*Patient Protection Act of 2005*

**Action:** **Now Act 490**

Senator Farris

Representative Bradford

**Summary:** Allows patients to choose providers of their choice. In addition, allow providers to participate in health benefit plans. Providers are subject to network rules, regulations and payment fees.

### [SB110](#)

*An act to encourage small school districts to form partnerships with other school districts or to enter into agreements with educational service cooperatives for the purpose of improving Medicaid billing for medically necessary services delivered to Arkansas school children; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Withdrawn by author**

Senator J. Jeffress

**Summary:** Encourages schools to form partnerships to help them adequately bill Medicaid for health services provided to students.

### [SB118](#)

*An act to amend Arkansas code 26-57-261 pertaining to refunds of interest from deposits by Tobacco Product Manufacturers under the Master Settlement Agreement.*

**Action:** **Now Act 384**

Senator B. Johnson

**Summary:** Pertains to the Tobacco Settlement agreement for Arkansas. As part of the Tobacco Settlement a state must insure the manufacturer's who are not participating in the agreement do not receive a competitive because they are not having to pay the per pack penalty levied on all the participating manufacturers. In Arkansas this was being done by requiring the non-participating manufacturers (NPMs) to pay an equal % amount into an escrow account. The way this part of the agreement was written allowed the NPMs to take advantage of a loophole and receive rebates from the escrow account manually and thereby end up with a lower cost per pack than those who were part of the agreement. This legislation closes that goal and therefore protects Arkansas from a lawsuit that could negate our tobacco settlement agreement.

### [SB121](#)

*An act to allow school districts to seek proposals from health insurers or health maintenance organizations for the health care coverage of districts employees; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Died on the Senate Committee on Education calendar**

Senator G. Jeffress

**Summary:** Act that allows school districts to obtain proposals from health insurance companies or HMO's to determine the best rate for health insurance for their employees and dependents in their district. The school district is entitled to payment from the state, in the event the district enters into an agreement with a health insurance company or HMO for premium costs.

### [SB466](#)

*An act to provide free tuition at state-supported institutions of higher education and technical institutes for children of disabled veterans; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Now ACT 2127**

Senator Broadway

**Summary:** Act to allow dependents of disabled veterans to attend a higher education institution at no cost.

### **SB501**

*Act to revise the subcommittees of the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Board; and for other purposes.*

**Action: Now Act 1308**

Senator Malone

**Summary:** Act to appoint two subcommittees of the board to study and research health and life plan option benefits, formulary management, and the financial impact of implementing the recommendations made to the State and Public School Life Health Insurance Board; The Drug Utilization and Evaluation Subcommittee will review drugs for formulary management and evaluate the financial impact of the recommendations.

### **SB876**

*An act to make an appropriation to the Department of Education for the Public School Employees' Health Insurance Program; and for other purposes.*

**Action: Died on the Joint Budget Committee calendar**

Senators J. Jeffress, Argue

Representative Sumpter

**Summary:** Act to establish specific amount to be awarded to the Public School Employees' Health Insurance Program.

### **SB950**

*The School Employee Health Insurance Act of 2005; and for other purposes.*

**Action: Withdrawn by author**

Senator J. Jeffress, Argue

Representative Sumpter

**Summary:** Act to mandate school districts to contribute a specific each month for employees who participate in the health insurance program.

### **SB982**

*The Medicaid Fairness Act; to ensure fair treatment of health care providers that serve Medicaid recipients; and for other purposes.*

**Action: Now ACT 1758**

Senator Wooldridge, J. Bookout, Critcher

Representative Bradford

**Summary:** Establishes guidelines for providers to ensure Medicaid patients receive proper care for health care providers and also to ensure providers receive proper payment and sets guidelines for denials of payment and patient referrals.

### **SB1088**

*An act to amend the law regarding assistance for indigent persons; to ensure that providers are treated fairly and impartially; and for other purposes.*

**Action: Died on the House Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee calendar**

Senators: Horn, Critcher, J. Bookout, Womack, Faris, B. Johnson, Wooldridge

**Summary:** Act to ensure low income people receive medical treatment for psychiatric illnesses and to ensure payment to providers who offer medical services for these people. If a person has Medicaid, he/she is entitled to receive medical services from any provider who accepts Medicaid as payment.

### **SB1100**

*An act to establish the Arkansas Small Group Reinsurance Pool; and for other purposes.*

**Action: Died on the Senate Insurance and Commerce Committee calendar**

Senator T. Smith

**Summary:** The purpose of this act is to establish the Arkansas Small Group Reinsurance Pool.

### [SB1136](#)

*An act concerning the Arkansas Comprehensive Health Insurance Pool Act; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Now ACT 2292**

Senator Miller

**Summary:** Act to provide additional types of plans to provide optional coverage, including Medicare supplement health insurance and health saving accounts that comply with applicable federal law as in effect January 1, 2005.

### [SB1145](#)

*An act to regulate the closing of blocks of business by health carriers; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Now ACT 2293**

Senator Critcher

**Summary:** Act to mandate that no block of business will be closed by a carrier unless the carrier permits existing contract holders to purchase a contract from any block of business that is not closed and provides comparable benefits, services or terms with no additional underwriting or waiting period.

### [SB1154](#)

*An act to create the task force on mental health treatment services; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Recommended for study in the Interim Committee on Public Health**

Senator J. Jefferess

**Summary:** Act to establish a Task Force on Mental Health Treatment Services to access statewide delivery and funding of mental health treatment services.

### [HB1064](#)

*An act to allow an income tax deduction for contribution made to a health saving account; to exempt the interest earned on the account from income tax; to make conforming amendments to existing law; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Now Act 94**

Representatives: Bond, Key, J. Martin, Lamoureux

**Summary:** Allows deductions from income tax for health savings accounts. Employer contributions to employee health saving accounts can not be included in the employee's gross income.

### [HB1163](#)

*An act to make an appropriation for personal services, operating expenses and grants for the purpose of monitoring and evaluating program expenditures from the program accounts of the tobacco settlement program fund for the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission for the biennial period ending June 30, 2007; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Now Act 417**

Joint Budget Committee

**Summary:** This act determines amounts to be distributed for salaries and operation cost. In addition, clause stating will obtain 3rd party to monitor the settlement program to assess the program and prepare a report to be given to the General Assembly and Governor. If the department head seeks additional funds or a reduction in funds, the Chief Fiscal Officer will make this determination.

### [HB1181](#)

*An act to regulate health insurers' recoupment of health care provider claims; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Now Act 422**

Representative Bond

**Summary:** Regulates the time frame with health care providers payments are handled in the event the provider is paid incorrectly by the insurer or if the insurer miscalculated the claim payment amount. Miscalculations have to be corrected within 30 days with notice to insurer of miscalculation of payment. In addition, recoupment can only be made within 12 months from the date the payment was received from the provider, except in the event of fraud.

### [HB1250](#)

*An act to repeal the requirement that assisted living facilities obtain permits of approval; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Died on the Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee calendar**

Representative Bond, S. Prater, J. Martin, Borhauer, Bright

**Summary:** Removes requirement that assisted-living facilities obtain permits of approval under the Health Services Permit Agency in counties having a population of less than 75,000 persons.

### [HB1259](#)

*An act to improve Medicaid billing in school districts; and for other purposes.*

**Action: Now Act 1527**

Representative Mahony

**Summary:** The Department of Education will determine what school districts in the state of Arkansas are not performing to standards with direct-service Medicaid billing.

### [HB1559](#)

*An act to provide additional local revenue to public schools by requiring state funding to school districts for teacher insurance costs; to increase the state foundation funding amount for school year 200-2006 and subsequent years in order to provide sufficient funds for teacher insurance; and for other purposes.*

**Action: Now Act 1842**

Representative Sumpter

**Summary:** Act to establish a specific amount that school districts are required to pay for health insurance for eligible employees participating in their health plans. Also, it establishes a specific amount for the State of Arkansas to pay for employee health plans.

### [HB1783](#)

*An act to make an appropriation for school nurses for the Department of Education for the Biennial Period ending June 30, 2007; and for other purposes.*

**Action: Now Act 1844**

Representative Borhauer

**Summary:** Establishes amount for salaries for nurses in the Department of Education through 2007.

### [HB1877](#)

*An act to amend the powers of the Arkansas Advisory Commission on mandated health benefits; to require review and evaluation of insurance mandate legislation.*

**Action: Now Act 1826**

Representative Key

**Summary:** To determine rights of the Arkansas Advisory Commission on Mandated Health Insurance to determine the social, medical, and financial services of health insurance services.

### [HB1896](#)

*An act to require the division of legislative audit to determine the solvency of an organization offering insurance to cities, counties, school boards, and other public beneficiaries; and for other purposes.*

**Action: Withdrawn by author**

Representative J. Hutchinson

**Summary:** Act to mandate self insured insurance programs will submit annual financial reports to the Division of Legislative Audit. The division will review the documents to determine whether any risk pools or other sources of funds utilized to pay claims to public beneficiaries are solvent and fiscally sound and will occur no less than every two years.

### [HB1906](#)

*An act to make an appropriation to the Department of Finance and Administration disbursing officer for providing grants to Community Health Centers for operations and various community health programs for the biennial period ending June 30, 2007; and for other purposes.*

**Action: Died on the Joint Budget Committee calendar**

Representatives: Roebuck, Abernathy, Berry, Blount, Bolin, Borhauer, Boyd, Bright, Clemons, Dangeau, Davenport, Davis, Dickinson, Dunn, D. Evans, Flowers, Goss, Hardwick, Hardy, Key, W. Lewellen, Mahony, J. Martin, Maxwell, McDaniel, Nichols, Pate, S. Prater, Raglan, Reep, Scroggin, Willis, Mathis

Senators: Steele, Broadway, Capps, Glover, Higginbotham, Laverty, Wooldridge, Salmon, Wilkinson

**Summary:** An act to establish the Community Health Centers of Arkansas Fund using four million dollars from the interest income from the tobacco settlement Arkansas Healthy Century Trust Fund.

### [HB1907](#)

*An act to make an appropriation to the Department of Finance and Administration - disbursing officer for providing grants to community health centers for operations and various community health programs for the biennial period ending June 30, 2007; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Died on the Joint Budget Committee calendar**

Representative Roebuck

**Summary:** Establishes amount to be awarded to the Department of Finance for the Community Health Centers of Arkansas to ensure medical and preventive services are provided to uninsured Arkansans.

### [HB1908](#)

*An act to provide funding for health care for medically underserved Arkansans by increasing the beer excise tax; to continue funding for child care for low-income families by extending the three percent (3%) beer excise tax; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Died on the House Rules Committee calendar**

Representative Roebuck

It levies a new 1 percent excise tax on beer and removes the sunset provision on the 3 percent special beer tax now set to expire June 30th; earmarks proceeds to the Community Health Center for Grants.

### [HB1922](#)

*An act to assist small employer health insurance purchasing groups; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Now Act 949**

Representatives: D. Evans, Adams, Berry, Bond, Boyd, Bradford, Cooper, Cowling, Dangeau, Everett, Jackson, Mack, Mahony, Maloch, Nichols, Pate, Reep, Scroggin, Stovall, Thomason, Verkamp, Wyatt

**Summary:** Establishes length of time a health contract with a small business will remain effective for 36 months.

### [HB1955](#)

*An act to create the Arkansas Affordable RX Drug Program; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Died on the House Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee calendar**

Representatives T. Hutchinson, J. Hutchinson, Kenney, Key

**Summary:** Establishes an affordable prescription drug program to improve health care for residents of Arkansas. This program will be administered by the Department of Human Services. This program will work with participating retail pharmacies, which will provide information to qualified residents about the amount of savings through the program.

### [HB2042](#)

*An act to make appropriation to the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences for equipment and for an obesity related program at the College of Public Health; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Now Act 1204**

Representative Ledbetter

**Summary:** Act to establish appropriations for an obesity program with the College of Public Health.

### [HB2090](#)

*An act to make an appropriation for personal services and operating expenses for the Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Programs of the Department of Health for the biennial period ending June 30, 2007; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Now ACT 2310**

Joint Budget Committee

**Summary:** Act to establish appropriations for salaries, extra help, and operating expenses for the Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Programs.

### [HB2431](#)

*An act to rename the Arkansas Department of Human Services; to merge the Arkansas Department of Health into the Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services; to create the Healthy Arkansas Division within the Arkansas Department of Human Services; to rename the State Board of Health to the State Board for a Healthy Arkansas; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Now Act 1954**

Representatives Matayo, Mathis, Anderson

**Summary:** Act to rename departments to ensure quality of healthy Arkansans and create cost savings in the delivery of health-related programs by combining overlapping functions and eliminating duplications of functions of the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services.

### [HB2452](#)

*An act to ensure the continuity of mental health services for juveniles in their communities; to address the out-of-state placement of children for mental health services and treatment; to clarify the requirements for an assessment or screening; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Now Act 1959**

Representative Roebuck

**Summary:** Act to ensure juveniles receive mental health services in their communities whenever possible. In addition, juveniles are placed out-of-state for mental health services only when it is in the juvenile's best interest when there is no appropriate treatment available in the state. Circuit courts will be provided with appropriate mental health services for juveniles.

### [HB2503](#)

*An act to impose a cigarette and tobacco use tax on cigarettes and tobacco products possessed in this state for purposes other than sale; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Died on the House Rules Calendar**

Representative Lamoureux

**Summary:** Act to impose a cigarette and tobacco use tax on cigarette and tobacco products. The tax will be twenty-one cents per pack of twenty cigarettes.

### [HB2547](#)

*An act to exempt life care facilities from the State's Quality Assurance Fee; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Died on the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare and Labor calendar**

Representatives Pritchard, Edwards, Hardwick

Senator Madison

**Summary:** Act to exclude life care facilities from the quality assurance levy.

### [HB2552](#)

*An act to clarify the proper distribution of Master Settlement Agreement Funds; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Now Act 1872**

Representative Ledbetter

**Summary:** Act to establish specific percentages of funds to be distributed from the Master Settlement Fund; twenty-three and one-tenth percent will go to the Targeted State Needs Program Account; thirty-three and three-tenths will go to the Arkansas Biosciences Institute Program; forty-three and six-tenths percent will go the Medicaid Expansion Program Account.

### [HB2575](#)

*The Informed Medical Consumer Act of 2005*

**Action:** **Withdrawn by author/Recommended for study in the Interim by Joint Interim Committee on Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee**

Representative Key

**Summary:** The act to mandate medical professionals licensed under the Arkansas Medical Practices Act shall make available on their website a price listing containing fifteen most common medical procedures that they perform; hospitals will be required to maintain a price list of the most common inpatient services and outpatient procedures performed.

### [HB2608](#)

*An act to allow funding for primary care health centers; to amend portions of the Arkansas Code that resulted from initiated Act 1 of 2000; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Died on the House Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee calendar**

Representative Roebuck

Act to establish funding to create the Medicaid Expansion Program Account, to be used by the Department of Human Services. This funding will not replace other funding to this department and the funding will be used to provide medical, dental, and mental health treatment for nonprofit organization qualified as health centers.

### [HB2629](#)

*An act to provide funding for administrative cost of the Arkansas RX Program; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Now ACT 2219**

Representative Bond

**Summary:** Money collected from an additional tax will distributed to the Arkansas RX Program, the Breast Cancer Control Fund, the Breast Cancer Research Fund, and to the Aging and Adult Services Fund Account.

### [HB2633](#)

*An act to continue the Supplemental Mixed Drink Tax of four percent for the benefit of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Now Act 1274**

Representatives: Stovall, Bradford, Abernathy, Adams, Blair, Blount, Bolin, Borhauer, Boyd, Bright, Chesterfield, Childers, Cowling, Dangeau, Davenport, Dickinson, Elliott, L. Evans, D. Evans, Fite, Flowers, George, Goss, Hardwick, Ledbetter, W. Lewellen, Mahony, Nichols, Overbey, Pickett, Rankin, Roebuck, Saunders, Sullivan, Sumpter, Thyer, Walters, Willis, Dobbins, Berry, Clemons, Reep, Ragland Senators: Capps, Brown, Lucker, J. Bookout, Broadway, Bryles, Glover, Higginbotham, Horn, J. Jeffress, Madison, Malone, Miller, Trusty, Wooldridge, Hill

**Summary:** Act to maintain a supplement tax of four percent on the gross proceeds or gross receipts from the sale of alcoholic beverages and the funds from this tax will be credited to the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

### [HB2634](#)

*An act to establish the Arkansas City, County, and Small Employer Health Insurance Purchasing Pools; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Died on the Senate Insurance and Commerce Committee calendar**

Representative Stovall

Act to establish the Arkansas City, County, and Business Health Insurance Purchasing Pools in order to provide more cost effective health insurance coverage options to small employers, county government, and municipalities.

### [HB2642](#)

*An act to provide that a portion of the process from Insurance Premium taxes shall be credited to the Arkansas Medicaid Program Trust Fund; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Now ACT 2222**

Representative Stovall

**Summary:** Act to allow proceeds collected from the insurance premium tax to be credited by the Treasurer of the State to the Arkansas Medicaid Trust Fund.

### [HB2943](#)

*An act to provide for fair reimbursement for Medical Services provided to the impoverished children of Arkansas; to provide for fair reimbursement for services provided to the Medicaid Eligible Children of Arkansas; to provide for fair reimbursement for services provided to the Medicaid Eligible Children of Arkansas by Border-City University-Affiliated Pediatric Teaching-Hospitals; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Died on the House Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs calendar**

Representative Dangeau

**Summary:** The purpose of this act is to amend Arkansas Code Title 5, Chapter 54 to provide for fair reimbursement for medical services provided to the impoverished children of Arkansas and to provide for fair reimbursement for services provided to the Medicaid eligible children of Arkansas by border-city university-affiliated pediatric teaching hospitals.

### [HB2096](#)

*An act to provide solutions for Community Health Centers; to amend sections of the Arkansas Code resulting from initiated Act 1 of 2000; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Died on the House Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee calendar**

Representative Roebuck

**Summary:** This act initiated the creation of a trust fund entitled the Medicaid Expansion Program Account that is funded from the Tobacco Settlement Program Fund maintained by the State Board of Finance.

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## Access to Quality Care

### [SB111](#)

*An act to create the task force on mental health treatment services; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Withdrawn by author**

Senator J. Jeffress

**Summary:** Allows task force to be created to evaluate delivery and funding of mental health services, in reference to referrals, available revenue resources and unused revenue, in the state of Arkansas.

### [SB119](#)

*An act to establish a prescription drug monitoring program; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Recommended for study in the Interim Committee on Public Health Committee on Public Health, Welfare and Labor**

Senator Critcher

**Summary:** A bill setting forth requirements the establishment of a prescription drug monitoring program by the Arkansas Department of Health. ADH will monitor the prescribing and dispensing of all schedule II-V controlled substances and any other drugs identified by the department as demonstrating a potential for abuse.

### [SB1053](#)

*An act to establish minimum requirements for a state Medicaid program preferred drug list; to require the state Medicaid program to use a Drug Review Committee in the development of a preferred drug list; to provide for the monitoring of the impact and effectiveness of the preferred drug list; to provide for periodic reporting to the general assembly; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Withdrawn by author**

Senator Salmon

**Summary:** To create a Medicaid drug list to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of drugs issued to Medicaid recipients.

### [SB1195](#)

*An act to clarify the eligibility for and service on the Arkansas State Medical Board; to provide for geographic representation on the board; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Now Act 2010**

Senators: Faris, J. Bookout, Critcher, B. Johnson, Womack, Horn, Altes

Representatives: Verkamp, Bradford, Elliott, S. Prater, Reep, Thyer, McDaniel

**Summary:** Act to determine the creation and membership of the Arkansas State Medical Board. In addition, the act describes how the board will be comprised, length of membership, and how members can be removed from the board.

### [HB1106](#)

*An act to prohibit the use of a student's social security number as a student identification number; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Now Act 246**

Representatives: Key, D. Creekmore, Mack, Pace, S. Prater, Dobbins

**Summary:** Restricts the use of a student social security number as an identifying link to a student. The student's social security number can not be used in magnetic strips on cards or on any report released to parents, guardians, or the public without consent from the student parents if a minor or the student is 18 or older. Does not apply to educational records that are transferred to or between the DOE, other public schools or school districts, or other governmental agencies as allowed or required by federal law, state laws, or State Board of Education rule.

### [HB1442](#)

*An act to set minimum training hours for nurse aid training programs; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Now Act 1184**

Representative S. Prater

**Summary:** Requires training programs for nurse aides to be no less than 90 hours and to include 15 hours of training specific to Alzheimer's and Dementia related illness.

### [HB1470](#)

*An act to preserve the confidentiality of health data in Arkansas; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Now Act 1434**

Representatives Reep, Ragland

**Summary:** This act allows the State Board of Health to provide data to the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement for research and statistical reporting.

### [HB2577](#)

*An act to amend the minimum staffing standards for nursing facilities; to ensure residents care needs; to clarify penalties; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Now Act 1411**

Representative Bradford

**Summary:** Act to mandate the Department of Human Services not to issue or renew a license of a nursing facility unless that facility employs the direct staff needed to provide continuous twenty-four hour nursing care and service to meet the needs of each resident of the nursing facility or nursing home.

### [HB2598](#)

*An act to authorize the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Board to obtain quality-of-care information from networks, hospitals, and clinical providers to inform plan design, plan management, and consumer decisions; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Now Act 1937**

Representative D. Johnson

**Summary:** Act to mandate health care institutions/providers report data information to the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Board to recommend quality performance indicators, recommend baseline performance goals, recommend alignment of financial incentives to improve performance, and track improvements in delivery of care.

### [HB2613](#)

*An act concerning the Nurse Practice Law; and for other purposes.*

**Action:** **Withdrawn by author/Interim by Joint Interim Committee on Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee**

Representative Bright

**Summary:** Act to establish specific definitions under the Nurse Practice Law, such as Practice of advanced practice nursing, Practice of advanced nurse practitioner nursing, Practice of certified registered nurse, Practice of clinical nurse specialist, and Practice of nurse midwifery.