

1 State of Arkansas  
2 92nd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2019  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1555

5 By: Representative A. Collins  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO INCREASE COVERAGE FOR MEDICATIONS APPROVED  
9 BY THE UNITED STATES FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION FOR  
10 TOBACCO CESSATION IN THE ARKANSAS MEDICAID PROGRAM;  
11 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

15 TO INCREASE COVERAGE FOR MEDICATIONS  
16 APPROVED BY THE UNITED STATES FOOD AND  
17 DRUG ADMINISTRATION FOR TOBACCO CESSATION  
18 IN THE ARKANSAS MEDICAID PROGRAM.  
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20

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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23 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings and intent.

24 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

25 (1) Arkansas has the third-highest rate of adult smokers in the  
26 United States;

27 (2) Arkansas has the third-highest rate of new lung cancer  
28 diagnoses in the United States;

29 (3) One-third (1/3) of all cancer-related deaths are tied to the  
30 use of tobacco; and

31 (4) The Arkansas Healthcare Transparency Initiative, the  
32 statewide all-payer claims database, projects that the annual cost of tobacco  
33 use to the Arkansas Medicaid Program to be approximately seven hundred  
34 ninety-five million dollars (\$795,000,000).

35 (b) It is the intent of this section to lower the rate of adult  
36 smokers in Arkansas and to reduce costs of treatment related to tobacco use-



1 related illness by increasing coverage in the Arkansas Medicaid Program for  
 2 medications approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for  
 3 tobacco cessation.

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 5 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 77, Subchapter 1, is  
 6 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

7 20-77-135. Medications approved by the United States Food and Drug  
 8 Administration for tobacco cessation coverage.

9 (a) The Department of Human Services shall ensure that the Arkansas  
 10 Medicaid Program covers for medications approved by the United States Food  
 11 and Drug Administration for tobacco cessation, including without limitation:

- 12 (1) Nicotine replacement therapy patches;
- 13 (2) Nicotine replacement therapy gum;
- 14 (3) Nicotine replacement therapy lozenges;
- 15 (4) Nicotine replacement therapy nasal spray;
- 16 (5) Nicotine replacement therapy inhalers;
- 17 (6) Bupropion; and
- 18 (7) Varenicline.

19 (b) Prior authorization shall not be required for coverage of  
 20 medications described in subsection (a) of this section.