



Update on The State Board of Finance Meetings

At a meeting on June 18, 2021, the Arkansas Legislative Council approved a **one-time transfer of \$35 million** from the state's Restricted Reserve Fund to help fund Public School Employee Health Insurance Programs in 2022.

The School Employee's Insurance Program had been projected to run a **\$70 million deficit in 2022**. The \$35 million transfer came in response to a request by the State Board of Finance, which has been meeting weekly after taking over decision-making responsibility for State and Public School Insurance Programs. Under 1004 of 2021, the General Assembly abolished the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Board and temporarily delegated the responsibility to the Board of Finance until the legislative establishes a new governance structure.

The Board of Finance will meet again on **Tuesday, June 29** to consider further changes to the Public School Employees Insurance Program for **the 2022 calendar year**. Also on June 18, the Legislative Council **approved the changes below for individuals covered by the State Employees Insurance Program and for the 2022 calendar year**:

- **5 percent** rate increases for all actives and retirees;
- Ending **on-site visits** to meet requirements for wellness;
- Decreasing the wellness credit provided from **\$50 monthly to \$25 monthly**;
- Increasing the penalty for non-wellness from **\$0 to \$25 monthly**;
- Increasing the amount the State will pay per member, per month from **\$450 to \$500**

The State Employees had anticipated a deficit of **\$33.3 million in 2022**. Under the plan approved by the Legislative Council, this deficit will be eliminated and the State Employee Insurance Program will instead anticipate a small surplus of **\$6.2 million at the end of 2022**.



Nurse24 is available 24/7 to answer all your medical questions and recommend when or if you should seek additional care.

1-866-458-0408


Health Advantage
An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association







2021 Legislative Roundup

The 2021 Legislative Session concluded with the passage of 1,112 acts. These acts included a number which affect insurance and benefits for State and Public School Employees. These include the following:

Act 408: Allows pharmacists to administer oral contraceptives.

Act 1004: Transfers the duties from the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Board to the State Board of Finance.

Act 767: Specifies that members may receive telemedicine appointments via their home and group meetings may be performed via telemedicine for individuals over the age of 18.

Act 97: Regulates Step Therapy protocols. Step Therapy is when a member is required to try one or more prescription drugs before the Plan will cover the drug recommended by the doctor.

Act 598: Requires a Hepatitis Screening during pregnancy.

Act 406: Allows pharmacists to prescribe, administer, deliver, distribute, or dispense vaccines, immunizations, and medications.

Act 583: Requires health plans to offer coverage for positron emission tomography (imaging test that reveals how tissues and organs are functioning) when recommended to a patient with a history of cancer.

Act 553: Requires health plans to provide coverage for complete breast ultrasound if recommended by a physician.

Act 357: Requires health plans to provide coverage for early refills or prescription eye drops.

Act 462: Creates guidelines concerning medical ethics and diversity



Follow The Department of Transformation and Shared Services (TSS) on Facebook and Twitter for more information on ARBenefits and EBD

ARBenefits complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. Language assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Call 1-877-815-1017x1, x2

