

# Arkansas Senate approves compromise Medicaid plan

February 20 2014, by Andrew Demillo

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The Arkansas Senate has voted to continue the state's compromise Medicaid expansion plan, sending the funding bill for the nationally-watched program to an uncertain fate in the House.

The Senate on Thursday voted 27-8 to reauthorize funding for the "private option" that was approved last year as an alternative to the Medicaid expansion under the federal [health care law](#). Through the private option, Arkansas is using federal Medicaid funds to purchase [private insurance](#) for thousands of low-income residents.

The measure needed at least 27 votes in the 35-member Senate.

Its future remains uncertain in the House, where identical legislation has failed twice. The 100-member chamber planned to vote on the proposal Thursday afternoon.

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