

1 AN ACT relating to sickle cell disease.

2 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

3 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 216B IS CREATED TO
4 READ AS FOLLOWS:

5 *By January 1, 2026, each hospital licensed by the Cabinet for Health and Family*
6 *Services shall:*

7 *(1) Establish policies and procedures to improve care for sickle cell disease patients*
8 *during hospital and emergency room visits, including:*

9 *(a) Expedited pain management protocols implementing standardized*
10 *procedures to prioritize pain relief for sickle cell disease patients within*
11 *thirty (30) minutes of arrival;*

12 *(b) Sickle cell disease care medical care teams trained in sickle cell disease*
13 *crisis management for hospital emergency rooms; and*

14 *(c) Required training for all emergency room staff on sickle cell disease that*
15 *focuses on recognizing pain episodes, addressing care and treatment bias,*
16 *and providing culturally competent care;*

17 *(2) Develop programs to prevent and address addiction risks for sickle cell disease*
18 *patients, including:*

19 *(a) Alternative pain management options including nonopioid pain*
20 *management techniques such as cognitive behavioral therapy and*
21 *integrative medicine; and*

22 *(b) Accessible addiction treatment specifically designed for sickle cell disease*
23 *patients who have developed opioid dependence to ensure a holistic and*
24 *compassionate approach to recovery; and*

25 *(3) Provide patients with education and resources, including:*

26 *(a) Self-efficiency education on managing sickle cell disease as a chronic*
27 *illness and promoting independence rather than dependence on frequent*

- 1 hospital care; and
- 2 (b) Financial literacy workshops to help patients budget and manage finances
- 3 during extended hospital stays for sickle cell disease care.