

## Article - Health - General

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§13–504.

The purposes of this subtitle are to:

(1) Create and foster a statewide program that promotes public awareness and increases knowledge about the causes of arthritis, the importance of early diagnosis and appropriate management, effective prevention strategies, and pain prevention and management;

(2) Enhance understanding of arthritis by disseminating to patients, health professionals, and the public:

- (i) Educational materials;
- (ii) Information on research results;
- (iii) Information on services provided; and
- (iv) Strategies for prevention and control;

(3) Establish a solid scientific base of knowledge on the prevention of arthritis and related disability through surveillance, epidemiology, and prevention research;

(4) Utilize educational and training resources and services developed by organizations with appropriate expertise and knowledge of arthritis and use available technical assistance;

(5) Evaluate the need for improving the quality and accessibility of existing community-based arthritis services;

(6) Increase awareness about the prevention, detection, and treatment of arthritis among State and local health officials, providers, professionals, and policy makers;

(7) Implement and coordinate State and local programs and services to reduce the public health burden of arthritis; and

(8) Improve the quality of life and contain health care costs for individuals with arthritis and their families.

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