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HUMAN RESOURCES

HOUSE FILE 2216

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Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the establishment of a prescription drug  
2 assistance program by the commissioner of insurance, and  
3 providing for a contingent appropriation.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 2216

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 505.25 PRESCRIPTION DRUG  
2 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

3 1. The commissioner of insurance shall establish and  
4 administer a prescription drug assistance program to improve  
5 access to prescription drugs for individuals who have no or  
6 inadequate health insurance or other resources for the  
7 purchase of medically necessary prescription drugs and to  
8 assist individuals in accessing programs offered by  
9 pharmaceutical manufacturers that provide free or discounted  
10 prescription drugs or provide coverage for prescription drugs.

11 2. The commissioner of insurance shall utilize computer  
12 software programs to do all of the following:

13 a. Provide a clearinghouse to assist individuals in  
14 accessing manufacturer-sponsored prescription drug assistance  
15 programs for which they may be eligible, including listing the  
16 eligibility requirements for pharmaceutical assistance  
17 programs offered by manufacturers.

18 b. Disseminate information about and assist individuals in  
19 assessing pharmaceutical discount or insurance programs that  
20 may be beneficial.

21 c. Serve as a resource for pharmaceutical benefit issues.

22 d. Assist individuals in making application to and  
23 enrolling in the pharmaceutical assistance program most  
24 appropriate for the individual.

25 3. The commissioner of insurance shall provide information  
26 to pharmacies, physicians, other appropriate health care  
27 providers, and the general public regarding the program and  
28 about manufacturer-sponsored prescription drug assistance  
29 programs.

30 4. The commissioner of insurance shall notify  
31 pharmaceutical manufacturers doing business in this state of  
32 the prescription drug assistance program, and every  
33 pharmaceutical manufacturer that does business in this state  
34 that offers a pharmaceutical assistance program shall notify  
35 the commissioner of the existence of the program, the

1 prescription drugs covered by the program, and all information  
2 necessary for application for assistance through the program.  
3 The commissioner of insurance shall provide for ongoing review  
4 and assessment of pharmaceutical discount or insurance  
5 programs.

6 5. The commissioner of insurance shall monitor and  
7 evaluate the prescription drug assistance program including  
8 but not limited to the number of individuals served, the  
9 length and types of services provided, and any other  
10 measurable data available to assess the effectiveness of the  
11 program. The commissioner shall make recommendations for  
12 improvement of the program and shall identify and make  
13 recommendations regarding additional strategies to improve  
14 access to prescription drugs for citizens who have no or  
15 inadequate health insurance or other resources for the  
16 purchase of prescription drugs.

17 6. The commissioner of insurance shall submit a report  
18 regarding the effectiveness of the program and including any  
19 recommendations for improvement of the program to the governor  
20 and the general assembly on or before December 15, annually.

21 Sec. 2. PRESCRIPTION DRUG ASSISTANCE PROGRAM -- FUNDING --  
22 CONTINGENT APPROPRIATION.

23 1. The commissioner of insurance shall seek federal  
24 funding to establish and administer the prescription drug  
25 assistance program pursuant to section 505.25.

26 2. If federal funding is not received pursuant to  
27 subsection 1 before October 1, 2004, as certified by the  
28 commissioner of insurance, there is appropriated from the  
29 senior living trust fund created in section 249H.4 to the  
30 insurance division of the department of commerce beginning  
31 October 1, 2004, and ending June 30, 2005, the following  
32 amount, or so much thereof as is necessary, to be used for the  
33 purpose designated:

34 For the establishment and administration of the  
35 prescription drug assistance program pursuant to section

1 505.25:

2 ..... \$ 190,000

3 EXPLANATION

4 This bill directs the commissioner of insurance to  
5 establish and administer a prescription drug assistance  
6 program to improve access to prescription drugs for  
7 individuals and to assist individuals in accessing programs  
8 offered by pharmaceutical manufacturers that provide free or  
9 discounted prescription drugs or provide coverage for  
10 prescription drugs.

11 The bill directs the commissioner of insurance to utilize  
12 computer software programs to: provide a clearinghouse to  
13 assist individuals in accessing manufacturer-sponsored  
14 prescription drug assistance programs for which they may be  
15 eligible; disseminating information about and assisting  
16 citizens in assessing pharmaceutical discount or insurance  
17 programs that may be beneficial; serving as a resource for  
18 pharmaceutical benefit issues; and assisting individuals in  
19 making application to and enrolling in the pharmaceutical  
20 assistance program most appropriate for the individual.

21 The bill directs the commissioner of insurance to provide  
22 information to pharmacies, physicians, other appropriate  
23 health care providers, and the general public regarding the  
24 program and about manufacturer-sponsored prescription drug  
25 assistance programs.

26 The commissioner of insurance is to notify pharmaceutical  
27 manufacturers doing business in the state of the prescription  
28 drug assistance program, and every pharmaceutical manufacturer  
29 that does business in the state that offers a pharmaceutical  
30 assistance program is required to notify the commissioner of  
31 the existence of the program, the prescription drugs covered  
32 by the program, and all information necessary for application  
33 for assistance through the program. The commissioner of  
34 insurance is to provide for ongoing review and assessment of  
35 pharmaceutical discount or insurance programs.

1 The bill directs the commissioner of insurance to monitor  
2 and evaluate the prescription drug assistance program, to make  
3 recommendations for improvement of the program, and to  
4 identify and make recommendations regarding additional  
5 strategies to improve access to prescription drugs for  
6 individuals who have no or inadequate health insurance or  
7 other resources for the purchase of prescription drugs.

8 The commissioner is to submit an annual report to the  
9 governor and the general assembly regarding the effectiveness  
10 of the program and including any recommendations for  
11 improvement of the program.

12 The bill directs the commissioner of insurance to seek  
13 federal funding to establish and administer the prescription  
14 drug assistance program. However, if federal funding is not  
15 received before October 1, 2004, the bill appropriates  
16 \$190,000 from the senior living trust fund to the insurance  
17 division of the department of commerce beginning October 1,  
18 2004, and ending June 30, 2005, for the establishment and  
19 administration of the program.

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