

FEB 5 2001
HUMAN RESOURCES

HOUSE FILE 171
BY OSTERHAUS

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a senior pharmaceutical assistance and
2 education program and providing for an appropriation.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

HF 171

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1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 231.61 SENIOR PHARMACEUTICAL
2 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.

3 1. For the purposes of this section, unless the context
4 otherwise requires:

5 a. "Eligible person" means a person, sixty-five years of
6 age or older, with an annual net income of not more than two
7 hundred fifty percent of the federal poverty level, as defined
8 by the most recent poverty income guidelines published by the
9 United States department of health and human services; or a
10 person, sixty-five years of age or older, who with the
11 person's spouse has an annual net income of not more than two
12 hundred fifty percent of the federal poverty level, as defined
13 by the most recent poverty income guidelines published by the
14 United States department of health and human services.

15 "Eligible person" does not include a person who is eligible
16 for financial assistance for the purchase of prescription
17 drugs under another local, state, or federal program to the
18 extent that the other program provides financial assistance
19 for the purchase of prescription drugs.

20 b. "Prescription drug" means a prescription drug as
21 defined in section 155A.3.

22 c. "Program" means the senior pharmaceutical assistance
23 program established in this section.

24 2. A senior pharmaceutical assistance program is
25 established within the department to provide for subsidization
26 of the prescription drug costs of eligible persons. The
27 program shall be administered through the area agencies on
28 aging.

29 3. The commission shall adopt rules to implement this
30 section. The rules shall provide for all of the following:

31 a. A means to determine the eligibility of a person,
32 including proof of the person's actual and anticipated annual
33 net income, evidence of complete or partial payment for the
34 costs of prescription drugs from a provider other than the
35 program, and other provisions consistent with this section.

1 b. The program application form. An initial application
2 shall be accompanied by proof of the date of birth of the
3 person.

4 c. Issuance by the department of a participation card,
5 upon approval of an application. The card shall act as a form
6 of identification for a person to use in proving eligibility.

7 d. Prescription copayment and deductible amount.

8 e. Pharmacist case management.

9 4. In establishing copayment and deductible amounts, the
10 goal of the commission shall be to provide a benefit to the
11 greatest number of eligible persons. The department may
12 negotiate group discounts or utilize other methods to reduce
13 the cost of prescription drugs provided under the program.

14 5. The department shall establish a pharmaceutical
15 assistance education program to provide information regarding
16 options for pharmaceutical assistance. The pharmaceutical
17 assistance education program shall be provided through the
18 area agencies on aging.

19 Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated from the
20 general fund of the state to the department of elder affairs
21 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June
22 30, 2002, the following amount, or so much thereof as is
23 necessary, for the purpose designated:

24 For the senior pharmaceutical assistance program and the
25 pharmaceutical assistance education program established
26 pursuant to section 231.61:

27 \$ 5,000,000

28 EXPLANATION

29 This bill establishes a senior pharmaceutical assistance
30 program in the department of elder affairs to provide for
31 subsidization of prescription drug costs of eligible persons
32 65 years of age and older with limited incomes, as established
33 in the bill. The department of elder affairs is required to
34 adopt rules regarding copayments and deductibles, and a form
35 of participation card identification for eligible persons.

1 The bill also establishes a pharmaceutical assistance
2 education program to provide information regarding options for
3 pharmaceutical assistance. The program is to be provided
4 through the area agencies on aging.

5 The bill also provides for an appropriation to the
6 department of elder affairs to finance the program.

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