

Withdrawn  
4/5/04

MAR 8 2004  
APPROPRIATIONS

HOUSE FILE 2507  
BY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 2216)

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 2507

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 e. Maintain a listing of community-based pharmacy  
26 assistance programs for additional assistance.

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

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

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

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

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

23 Sec. 2. PRESCRIPTION DRUG ASSISTANCE PROGRAM -- FUNDING --  
24 CONTINGENT APPROPRIATION.

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

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

1 For the establishment and administration of the  
2 prescription drug assistance program pursuant to section  
3 505.25:

4 ..... \$ 250,000

5 EXPLANATION

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

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

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

30 The commissioner of insurance is to notify pharmaceutical  
31 manufacturers doing business in the state of the prescription  
32 drug assistance program, and every pharmaceutical manufacturer  
33 that does business in the state that offers a pharmaceutical  
34 assistance program is required to notify the commissioner of  
35 the existence of the program, the prescription drugs covered

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

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

12 The commissioner is to submit an annual report to the  
13 governor and the general assembly regarding the effectiveness  
14 of the program and including any recommendations for  
15 improvement of the program.

16 The bill directs the commissioner of insurance to seek  
17 federal funding to establish and administer the prescription  
18 drug assistance program. However, if federal funding is not  
19 received before October 1, 2004, the bill appropriates  
20 \$250,000 from the senior living trust fund to the insurance  
21 division of the department of commerce beginning October 1,  
22 2004, and ending June 30, 2005, for the establishment and  
23 administration of the program.

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