

MAR 1 1 2005
APPROPRIATIONS

HOUSE FILE 709
BY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 342)

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 clearinghouse program by the commissioner of
3 insurance, and providing for a contingent appropriation.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 709

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 505.26 PRESCRIPTION DRUG
2 ASSISTANCE CLEARINGHOUSE PROGRAM.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 5. The commissioner of insurance may work with
10 pharmaceutical manufacturers to develop a simplified system to
11 assist individuals in accessing pharmaceutical assistance
12 programs. The system may include a simplified, uniform
13 application process or a voucher system for dispensing
14 prescription drugs through local pharmacies.

15 6. The commissioner of insurance shall monitor and
16 evaluate the prescription drug assistance clearinghouse
17 program including but not limited to the number of individuals
18 served, the length and types of services provided, and any
19 other measurable data available to assess the effectiveness of
20 the program. The commissioner shall make recommendations for
21 improvement of the program and shall identify and make
22 recommendations regarding additional strategies to improve
23 access to prescription drugs for citizens who have no or
24 inadequate health insurance or other resources for the
25 purchase of prescription drugs.

26 7. The commissioner of insurance shall submit a report
27 regarding the effectiveness of the program and including any
28 recommendations for improvement of the program to the governor
29 and the general assembly on or before December 15, annually.
30 If a national pharmaceutical assistance program is established
31 by a public or private entity, the commissioner of insurance
32 shall include in the annual report a recommendation regarding
33 the continuation or elimination of the state prescription drug
34 assistance clearinghouse program.

35 Sec. 2. PRESCRIPTION DRUG ASSISTANCE CLEARINGHOUSE PROGRAM

1 -- FUNDING -- CONTINGENT APPROPRIATION.

2 1. The commissioner of insurance shall seek federal
3 funding to establish and administer the prescription drug
4 assistance clearinghouse program pursuant to section 505.26.

5 2. If federal funding is not received pursuant to
6 subsection 1 before October 1, 2005, as certified by the
7 commissioner of insurance, there is appropriated from the
8 senior living trust fund created in section 249H.4 to the
9 insurance division of the department of commerce beginning
10 October 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2006, the following
11 amount, or so much thereof as is necessary, to be used for the
12 purpose designated:

13 For the establishment and administration of the
14 prescription drug assistance clearinghouse program pursuant to
15 section 505.26:

16 \$ 250,000

17 EXPLANATION

18 This bill directs the commissioner of insurance to
19 establish and administer a prescription drug assistance
20 clearinghouse program to improve access to prescription drugs
21 for individuals and to assist individuals in accessing
22 programs offered by pharmaceutical manufacturers that provide
23 free or discounted prescription drugs or provide coverage for
24 prescription drugs.

25 The bill directs the commissioner of insurance to utilize
26 computer software programs to provide a clearinghouse to
27 assist individuals in accessing manufacturer-sponsored
28 prescription drug assistance programs for which they may be
29 eligible; disseminate information about and assist citizens in
30 assessing pharmaceutical discount or insurance programs that
31 may be beneficial; serve as a resource for pharmaceutical
32 benefit issues; assist individuals in making application to
33 and enrolling in the pharmaceutical assistance program most
34 appropriate for the individual; and maintain a listing of
35 community-based pharmacy assistance programs for additional

1 assistance.

2 The bill directs the commissioner of insurance to provide
3 information to pharmacies, physicians, other appropriate
4 health care providers, and the general public regarding the
5 program and about manufacturer-sponsored prescription drug
6 assistance programs.

7 The commissioner of insurance is to notify pharmaceutical
8 manufacturers doing business in the state of the prescription
9 drug assistance clearinghouse program, and every
10 pharmaceutical manufacturer that does business in the state
11 that offers a pharmaceutical assistance program is required to
12 notify the commissioner of the existence of the program, the
13 prescription drugs covered by the program, and all information
14 necessary for application for assistance through the program.
15 The commissioner of insurance is to provide for ongoing review
16 and assessment of pharmaceutical discount or insurance
17 programs.

18 The bill directs the commissioner of insurance to monitor
19 and evaluate the prescription drug assistance clearinghouse
20 program, to make recommendations for improvement of the
21 program, and to identify and make recommendations regarding
22 additional strategies to improve access to prescription drugs
23 for individuals who have no or inadequate health insurance or
24 other resources for the purchase of prescription drugs.

25 The commissioner is to submit an annual report to the
26 governor and the general assembly regarding the effectiveness
27 of the program and including any recommendations for
28 improvement of the program. If a national program is
29 established, the report is to include a recommendation
30 regarding the continuation or elimination of the state
31 program.

32 The bill directs the commissioner of insurance to seek
33 federal funding to establish and administer the prescription
34 drug assistance clearinghouse program. However, if federal
35 funding is not received before October 1, 2005, the bill

1 appropriates \$250,000 from the senior living trust fund to the
2 insurance division of the department of commerce beginning
3 October 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2006, for the
4 establishment and administration of the program.

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