

House File 2585 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2585
BY COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 2033)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the provision of accessible
2 prescription-related measures for persons who are blind,
3 have a visual impairment, or other print disability.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 155A.49 Accessible
2 prescription-related measures — persons who are blind,
3 visually impaired, or have other print disabilities.

4 1. The board shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A
5 to ensure that on or before January 1, 2027, if a person who
6 is blind, has a visual impairment, or other print disability
7 requests access to prescription drug labels, bag tags, and
8 medical guides, a pharmacy provides access to prescription drug
9 labels, bag tags, and medical guides, or refers the person to
10 a pharmacy that provides access to prescription drug labels,
11 bag tags, and medical guides. The accessibility measures shall
12 meet all of the following requirements:

13 a. Be provided at no additional cost to such persons.

14 b. After a reasonable development period for the pharmacy,
15 provide required information on prescription drug labels, bag
16 tags, and medical guides in a format that is fully accessible
17 to such persons within a time frame comparable to a person that
18 is not blind, does not have a visual impairment, or other print
19 disability.

20 2. On or before April 1 of each year, the board shall
21 publish a list on the board's internet site that contains the
22 pharmacies that provide accessibility measures.

23 3. This section shall apply to any pharmacy that is
24 dispensing prescription drugs in the state except for the
25 following:

26 a. An institutional pharmacy. For the purpose of this
27 subsection, "*institutional pharmacy*" means a pharmacy located
28 within a hospital, nursing home, or long-term care facility.

29 b. A pharmacy participating in a prescription drug donation
30 repository program pursuant to chapter 135M, if the drug being
31 dispensed was donated under the program.

32 c. A pharmacy in a jail, a state correctional institution, a
33 federal correctional facility, or a juvenile detention home.

34 4. In adopting rules under this section, the board shall
35 solicit input from persons who are blind, have a visual

1 impairment, or other print disability.

2 5. The rules adopted under this section shall meet all of
3 the following requirements:

4 a. Comply with current guidelines and recommendations from
5 the United States government accountability office, and current
6 industry standards.

7 b. Include a method for providing notice to the public
8 that accessible prescription drug labels, bag tags, and
9 medical guides are available, including notice regarding the
10 availability of the prescription drug labels, bag tags, and
11 medical guides in audio format.

12 Sec. 2. ACCESSIBLE PRESCRIPTION-RELATED MEASURES —
13 REPORT. The board of pharmacy shall submit a report to the
14 governor and the general assembly on or before January 1,
15 2028, that provides a summary of the progress on implementing
16 rules, and recommendations for additional measures to improve
17 accessibility.

18 EXPLANATION

19 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
20 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

21 This bill relates to the provision of accessible
22 prescription-related measures for persons who are blind, have a
23 visual impairment, or other print disability.

24 The bill requires the board of pharmacy (board) to adopt
25 administrative rules on or before January 1, 2027, to ensure
26 that if a person who is blind, has a visual impairment, or
27 other print disability requests access to prescription drug
28 labels, bag tags, and medical guides, a pharmacy provides
29 access to such, or refers the person to a pharmacy that
30 provides access to prescription drug labels, bag tags, and
31 medical guides.

32 The bill provides that accessibility measures shall be
33 provided by a pharmacy at no additional cost to such person;
34 and information required to be provided on prescription drug
35 labels, bag tags, and medical guides shall be provided in a

1 format that is fully accessible to such persons within a time
2 frame comparable to a person who is not blind, does not have a
3 visual impairment, or other print disability.

4 The bill requires the board to publish, on or before April 1
5 of each year, a list on the board's internet site of pharmacies
6 that provide accessibility measures.

7 The bill applies to any pharmacy dispensing prescription
8 drugs in the state except for an institutional pharmacy; a
9 pharmacy participating in a prescription drug repository
10 program under Code chapter 135M, if the drug being dispensed
11 was donated under the program; a pharmacy in a jail, a state
12 correctional institution, a federal correctional facility, or
13 a juvenile detention home. The bill defines "institutional
14 pharmacy".

15 Under the bill, the board is required to solicit input
16 in developing the rules from persons who are blind, have a
17 visual impairment, or other print disability. The rules shall
18 comply with guidelines and recommendations from the United
19 States government accountability office and current industry
20 standards, and shall include a method for providing notice to
21 the public that accessible prescription drug labels, bag tags,
22 and medical guides are available.

23 Under the bill, the board shall submit a report to the
24 governor and the general assembly on or before January 1,
25 2028, that provides a summary on the progress on implementing
26 rules, and recommendations and additional measures to improve
27 accessibility.