



General Assembly

January Session, 2005

**Raised Bill No. 6854**

LCO No. 4250

\*04250\_\_\_\_\_GL\_\*

Referred to Committee on General Law

Introduced by:

(GL)

**AN ACT CONCERNING INFORMATION RELATING TO PATIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AND DISCOUNT DRUG CARDS OF PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) As used in this section and  
2 section 2 of this act:

3 (1) "Eligible person" means any person who is a resident of  
4 Connecticut at the time such person files an application for  
5 prescription medications or nonprescription medications with a  
6 participating manufacturer;

7 (2) "Department" means the Department of Social Services;

8 (3) "Participating manufacturer" means a pharmaceutical  
9 manufacturer that offers prescription medications or nonprescription  
10 medications at a reduced cost or at no cost to persons pursuant to a  
11 voluntary drug assistance program established by such manufacturer;

12 (4) "Prescription medications" means prescription drugs that have  
13 been approved as safe and effective by the federal Food and Drug

14 Administration or that are otherwise legally marketed and  
15 manufactured in the United States and manufactured and offered by  
16 pharmaceutical companies.

17 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a  
18 Pharmacy Outreach Program, within the Department of Social  
19 Services, for the purpose of assisting residents of this state in obtaining  
20 reduced cost or no cost prescription medications or nonprescription  
21 medications from participating manufacturers and educating such  
22 residents about health care issues relating to such medications. The  
23 Department of Social Services shall administer such program and may  
24 enter into an agreement with a vendor for assistance with the  
25 administration of such program.

26 (b) The Pharmacy Outreach Program shall assist eligible persons in  
27 procuring free or low cost prescription medications or nonprescription  
28 medications by: (1) Evaluating the likelihood that such eligible person  
29 will qualify to receive reduced cost or no cost prescription medications  
30 or nonprescription medications from a participating manufacturer  
31 based upon such participating manufacturer's eligibility requirements  
32 for participation in such manufacturer's voluntary drug assistance  
33 program; (2) aiding eligible persons in the preparation of applications  
34 for prescription medications or nonprescription medications that will  
35 be submitted to such participating manufacturers; and (3) assisting any  
36 physician licensed in this state with communications to any such  
37 participating manufacturer that concern the application of any such  
38 eligible person for participation in such participating manufacturer's  
39 voluntary drug assistance program.

40 (c) The Pharmacy Outreach Program shall include a medication  
41 education and intervention resource center that shall: (1) Create and  
42 maintain a state-wide toll free telephone number staffed by individuals  
43 who are qualified to counsel and advise eligible persons on questions  
44 such persons may have about prescription drugs or nonprescription  
45 drugs; (2) sponsor and organize presentations, workshops and

46 screenings, in conjunction with other organizations, concerning issues  
47 relating to mental and physical health and issues relating to the  
48 elderly; (3) offer and provide information on prescription medications  
49 and nonprescription medications, including, but not limited to,  
50 information on drug interactions and drug abuse; and (4) offer in-  
51 person counseling to eligible persons for the purpose of explaining  
52 proper medication use and discouraging medication misuse.

53 (d) The Department of Social Services shall adopt regulations, in  
54 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes,  
55 concerning the administration of the Pharmacy Outreach Program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To enable citizens of the state to more readily obtain information concerning certain voluntary drug assistance programs.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*