



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 6854**

January Session, 2005

\*          HB06854PH          042805          \*

**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 University of Connecticut School of  
8 Pharmacy;

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

13       (4) "Prescription medications" means prescription drugs that have  
14 been approved as safe and effective by the federal Food and Drug  
15 Administration or that are otherwise legally marketed and  
16 manufactured in the United States and manufactured and offered by  
17 pharmaceutical companies.

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

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

41       (c) The Pharmacy Outreach Program shall include a medication  
42 education and intervention resource center that shall: (1) Create and  
43 maintain a state-wide toll free telephone number staffed by individuals  
44 who are qualified to counsel and advise eligible persons on questions  
45 such persons may have about prescription drugs or nonprescription  
46 drugs; (2) sponsor and organize presentations, workshops and  
47 screenings, in conjunction with other organizations, concerning issues  
48 relating to mental and physical health and issues relating to the  
49 elderly; (3) offer and provide information on prescription medications  
50 and nonprescription medications, including, but not limited to,  
51 information on drug interactions and drug abuse; and (4) offer in-

52 person counseling to eligible persons for the purpose of explaining  
53 proper medication use and discouraging medication misuse.

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

**GL**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

**APP**      *Joint Favorable*

**PH**      *Joint Favorable*