



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2005

LCO No. 7255

HB0685407255HDO

Offered by:

REP. STONE, 9th Dist.
REP. AMANN, 118th Dist.
REP. KIRKLEY-BEY, 5th Dist.

REP. SAYERS, 60th Dist.
REP. VILLANO, 91st Dist.
REP. O'CONNOR, 35th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 6854

File No. 112

Cal. No. 140

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

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

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

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

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

10 (3) "Participating manufacturer" means a pharmaceutical
11 manufacturer that offers prescription medications or nonprescription

12 medications at a reduced cost or at no cost to persons pursuant to a
13 voluntary drug assistance program established by such manufacturer;

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

19 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a
20 Pharmacy Outreach Program, administered by participating
21 manufacturers through a toll-free telephone number, for the purpose
22 of assisting residents of this state in obtaining reduced cost or no cost
23 prescription medications or nonprescription medications from
24 participating manufacturers and educating such residents about all
25 available programs in Connecticut relating to such medications. The
26 department, within available appropriations, shall oversee such
27 program.

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

42 (c) The Pharmacy Outreach Program shall: (1) Create and maintain a
43 state-wide toll free telephone number staffed by individuals who are

44 qualified to advise eligible persons on questions such persons may
 45 have about access to reduced cost or no cost prescription drugs or
 46 nonprescription drugs; (2) sponsor and organize materials and
 47 information, in conjunction with other organizations, concerning
 48 issues relating to access to affordable prescription medications; and (3)
 49 offer and provide information on prescription medications and
 50 nonprescription medications, including, but not limited to, information
 51 on drug interactions and drug abuse.

52 (d) Not later than January 15, 2006, and annually thereafter, upon
 53 the request of the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
 54 having cognizance of matters relating to human services and general
 55 law, the Department of Social Services shall report, in accordance with
 56 section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the number of telephone calls
 57 received by the Pharmacy Outreach Program, the number of
 58 prescriptions requested and issued through the program and any other
 59 information relating to the program that the department deems
 60 relevant."

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