

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 83rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2001
4

As Engrossed: H3/23/01 S4/10/01

A Bill

Act 1746 of 2001
HOUSE BILL 2497

5 By: Representative King
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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS PHARMACY
10 OUTREACH PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

12 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS
13 PHARMACY OUTREACH PROGRAM.
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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19 SECTION 1. The General Assembly finds that pharmaceutical manufacturer
20 patient assistance programs have the potential to benefit a larger number of
21 low income, uninsured and underinsured Arkansans. However, the current way
22 that such programs are administered has resulted in low participation by
23 health care providers and their patients, and few Arkansans benefit from
24 these programs.
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26 SECTION 2. (a) The Director of the Department of Health shall,
27 subject to the availability of funds, establish a regional pilot program, to
28 be named "The Arkansas Pharmacy Outreach Program," to develop systems to
29 facilitate access to pharmaceutical manufacturer patient assistance programs.

30 (b) The director may contract with one (1) or more public or private
31 organizations to administer the outreach program.

32 (c) The program may:

33 (1) Provide consultation to participating health care providers
34 regarding changes to the program;

35 (2) Provide patients with information regarding their
36 eligibility for pharmaceutical manufacturer patient assistance programs; and

1 (3) Assist health care providers in establishing a program for
2 their patients.

3 (d)(1) The director may negotiate with pharmaceutical companies to
4 develop a simplified system to assist low income Arkansans in accessing
5 pharmaceutical manufacturer patient assistance programs.

6 (2) Components of the simplified system may include a
7 simplified, single application process and a voucher system for dispensing
8 drugs through local pharmacies.

9 (e) The outreach program may assist health care providers in
10 establishing programs for their patients, to provide:

11 (1) Consultation with participating health care providers
12 regarding changes to the program;

13 (2) Patients with information regarding their eligibility for
14 pharmaceutical manufacturer patient assistance programs; and

15 (3) Opportunities to work with representatives of pharmaceutical
16 manufacturers to improve the program.

17 (f)(1) The director shall report to the Legislative Council on the
18 results of the outreach program before October 2, 2002.

19 (2) The report shall include information concerning:

20 (A) The number of Arkansans benefited by patient
21 assistance programs;

22 (B) The value of benefits provided through patient
23 assistance programs; and

24 (C) Any other information the director deems relevant.

25 /s/ King

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28 APPROVED: 4/18/2001
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