

**Hall of the House of Representatives**  
83rd General Assembly - Regular Session, 2001  
**Amendment Form**

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**Subtitle of House Bill No. 2497**

"AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS PHARMACY OUTREACH PROGRAM."

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**Amendment No. 1 to House Bill No. 2497.**

Amend House Bill No. 2497 as originally introduced:

Delete everything after the Enacting clause and substitute the following:

"SECTION 1. The General Assembly finds that pharmaceutical manufacturer patient assistance programs have the potential to benefit a larger number of low income, uninsured and underinsured Arkansans. However, the current way that such programs are administered has resulted in low participation by health care providers and their patients, and few Arkansans benefit from these programs.

SECTION 2. (a) The Director of the Department of Health shall administer a statewide 2-year pilot program, to be named "The Arkansas Pharmacy Outreach Program," to improve coordination and implementation of pharmaceutical manufacturer patient assistance programs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(2) The report shall include information concerning:

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

(B) The value of benefits provided through patient assistance programs; and  
(C) Any other information the director deems relevant."

**The Amendment was read** \_\_\_\_\_  
**By: Representative King**  
**MF/RTK - 032220011027**  
**RTK278** \_\_\_\_\_ **Chief Clerk**