

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2019-143

2
3 REQUESTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE AND COMMERCE STUDY
4 THE CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF THE RISING COSTS OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS
5 AND THE STATE-SPECIFIC DYNAMICS INVOLVED IN THOSE RISING COSTS.
6

7 WHEREAS, over the past few years, the costs of prescription drugs have
8 skyrocketed and keep rising; and
9

10 WHEREAS, little action has been taken at the federal level to reduce
11 the costs of prescription drugs; and
12

13 WHEREAS, an understanding of the causes and effects of the rising costs
14 of prescription drugs, as well as the state-specific dynamics involved in
15 those rising costs, would help to determine the best state legislation
16 solution in mitigating the consequences of those costs for the citizens of
17 Arkansas; and
18

19 WHEREAS, other states have taken steps to address the skyrocketing
20 costs of prescription drugs by improving price transparency, increasing state
21 negotiating power, or implementing measures against price gouging; and
22

23 WHEREAS, the General Assembly should determine the causes and effects
24 of the rising costs of prescription drugs, as well as the state-specific
25 dynamics involved in those rising costs, to help the citizens of Arkansas,
26

27 NOW THEREFORE,

28 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE AND COMMERCE OF THE
29 NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
30

31 THAT the House Committee on Insurance and Commerce study:

32 (1) The causes, effects, and state-specific dynamics regarding
33 the costs of prescription drugs in Arkansas, including without limitation:

34 (A) Commercial market forces and price increases driven by
35 insurance companies, pharmacy benefit managers, and the pharmaceutical
36 industry;

- 1 (B) State and federal law;
- 2 (C) The number of pharmacy openings, closings, employee
- 3 new hires, and employee lay-offs;
- 4 (D) Health outcomes of the citizens of Arkansas associated
- 5 with medication compliance and the cost of any given prescription drug; and
- 6 (E) State economic impact; and
- 7 (2) State legislative solutions to reduce the costs of
- 8 prescription drugs for the citizens of Arkansas.

9
10

11 Respectfully submitted,

12
13
14

15 Representative Reginald Murdock
16 District 48

17
18
19

20 Representative Vivian Flowers
21 District 17

22
23
24

25 Senator Jason Rapert
26 District 35

27 Prepared by: JMB/JMB

28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36