

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2019-143

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOW THEREFORE,

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

THAT the House Committee on Insurance and Commerce study:

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

(A) Commercial market forces and price increases driven by
insurance companies, pharmacy benefit managers, and the pharmaceutical
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.

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11 Respectfully submitted,

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16 District 48

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