

## INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2019-143

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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.  
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7 WHEREAS, over the past few years, the costs of prescription drugs have  
8 skyrocketed and keep rising; and  
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10 WHEREAS, little action has been taken at the federal level to reduce  
11 the costs of prescription drugs; and  
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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  
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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  
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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,  
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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:  
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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.

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Respectfully submitted,

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