

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 H3/30/01

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2499

5 By: Representative King
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS
10 PURCHASING PROGRAM TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO
11 MEDICATIONS AT THE LOWEST MARKET RATE TO
12 INDIVIDUALS AGED *SIXTY-FIVE* AND OLDER; AND FOR
13 OTHER PURPOSES.
14

Subtitle

15 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PRESCRIPTION
16 MEDICATIONS PURCHASING PROGRAM TO
17 PROVIDE ACCESS TO MEDICATIONS AT THE
18 LOWEST MARKET RATE TO INDIVIDUALS AGED
19 *SIXTY-FIVE* AND OLDER.
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
24

SECTION 1. Definitions.

25 For purposes of this act:

26 (1)(A) "Eligible person" means a person, sixty-five (65) years of age
27 or older, with an annual net income of not more than one hundred percent
28 (100%) of the federal poverty level, as defined by the most recent poverty
29 income guidelines published by the United States Department of Health and
30 Human Services; or a person, sixty-five (65) years of age or older, who with
31 the person's spouse has an annual net income of not more than one hundred
32 percent (100%) of the federal poverty level, as defined by the most recent
33 poverty income guidelines published by the United States Department of Health
34 and Human Services.
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36 (B) "Eligible person" does not include a person who is

1 eligible for financial assistance for the purchase of prescription drugs
2 under another local, state, or federal program to the extent that the other
3 program provides financial assistance for the purchase of prescription drugs;
4 and

5 (2) "Program" means the senior pharmaceutical assistance program
6 established in this act.

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8 SECTION 2. Senior pharmaceutical assistance program established.

9 (a)(1) A senior pharmaceutical assistance program is established
10 within the Department of Human Services to provide for subsidization of the
11 prescription drug costs of eligible persons.

12 (2) The department is authorized to accept and receive for the
13 senior pharmaceutical assistance program grants and donations,
14 appropriations, and other funds, including funds from the Tobacco Settlement
15 Proceeds Act or any federal program and shall implement the program as funds
16 become available from any source.

17 (b) The department shall adopt regulations to implement this act,
18 including:

19 (1) A means to determine the eligibility of a person, including
20 proof or the person's actual and anticipated annual net income, evidence of
21 complete or partial payment for the costs of prescription drugs from a
22 provider other than the program, and other provisions deemed relevant by the
23 department;

24 (2) The program application form, which shall be accompanied by
25 proof of the date of birth of the person;

26 (3) Upon approval of an application, issuance by the department
27 of a participation card, which shall act as a form of identification for
28 proving eligibility;

29 (4) Prescription copayment and deductible amount;

30 (5) Pharmacist case management;

31 (6) Outreach efforts to build public awareness of the program
32 and maximize the enrollment of eligible residents; and

33 (7) Procedures for adjusting the requirements and terms of the
34 program to accommodate any new federally funded prescription drug programs.

35 (c) In establishing copayment and deductible amounts, the goal of the
36 department shall be to provide a benefit to the greatest number of eligible

1 persons.

2 (d) The department may negotiate group discounts or utilize other
3 methods to reduce the cost of prescription drugs provided under the program.

4 (e) The department may establish a pharmaceutical assistance education
5 program to provide information regarding options for pharmaceutical
6 assistance.

7 (f) The department shall submit a report on its progress to the
8 Legislative Council and the Governor by July 1, 2002.

9 /s/ King

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