

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SJM 8001

As Reported by House Committee On:

Health Care

Brief Description: Exploring the option of managing prescription drug prices through cooperative strategies with other Northwest states.

Sponsors: Senators Franklin, Thibaudeau, Winsley, Costa and Kohl-Welles.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Health Care: 2/22/02, 2/25/02 [DP].

Brief Summary of Bill

- A memorial is sent to regional Governors, the President, The President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and members of Congress from the State of Washington, seeking joint efforts to address issues related to access to and cost of prescription drugs.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 9 members: Representatives Cody, Chair; Schual-Berke, Vice Chair; Campbell, Ranking Minority Member; Alexander, Conway, Darneille, Edwards, Ruderman and Skinner.

Staff: Dave Knutson (786-7146).

Background:

The accessibility and affordability of prescription drugs is an issue for state governments and individuals. Recent price increases for prescription drugs have impacted state health programs and individuals' ability to afford drugs they require.

Summary of Bill:

A memorial is sent to regional governors, the President, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and members of Congress from the state of Washington, seeking

joint efforts to address issues related to access to and cost of prescription drugs.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not Requested.

Testimony For: Washington needs to work with regional states to develop strategies to control prescription drug costs.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Senator Franklin, prime sponsor; and Allen Morrow, Senior Citizens Lobby.