

***Health Care Committee***

***HB 1774***

***Brief Description:*** *Creating the senior pharmacy assistance program.*

***Sponsors:*** *Representatives Pennington (co-prime sponsor), Conway (co-prime sponsor), Skinner, Cody, Ballasiotes, Schual-Berke, Campbell, Darneille, Anderson, Armstrong, Roach, Talcott, Edwards, Wood, Schoesler, Santos, Esser, Dunn, Casada, Bush and Mulliken!Conway!.*

***Brief Summary of Bill***

- *Creates a senior pharmacy assistance program to help seniors pay for prescription drugs.*

***Hearing Date:*** *2/13/01*

***Staff:*** *Dave Knutson (786-7146).*

***Background:***

*Many seniors over age 65 do not have insurance coverage that provides prescription drug coverage. Paying for prescription drugs out of pocket is a major financial burden for many seniors on fixed incomes.*

***Summary of Bill:***

*The administrator of the Health Care Authority will develop a senior pharmacy assistance program for individuals 60 years of age and older. To qualify, an individual must: (1) have an income over 175 percent of the federal poverty limit, (2) not qualify for other prescription drug programs, (3) not be covered by a private reimbursement prescription drug plan, (4) not have voluntarily canceled a public or private insurance plan that provides prescription drug coverage, and (5) pay a coinsurance amount of 30 percent.*

*The maximum annual benefit under the program is \$1,200.*

***Appropriation: None.***

***Fiscal Note: Requested on February 12, 2001.***

***Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.***