

6268

Sponsor(s): Senators Thibaudeau and Kohl-Welles

Brief Description: Creating the Washington pharmacy access program.

**SB 6268 - DIGEST**

(SEE ALSO PROPOSED 1ST SUB)

Finds that access to prescription drugs is vital to the health of many Washington residents. However, increased cost and utilization of such drugs is straining the resources of many individuals, and public and private entities.

Creates a pharmacy access program with the intention of implementing strategies to reduce the cost of prescription drugs to the state and assuring state residents of continued access to necessary, appropriate, and affordable medications.

Provides that, no later than January 1, 2003, the administrator of the health care authority shall submit to the governor and the legislature a progress report regarding the implementation of efforts to coordinate state agency drug purchasing pursuant to RCW 41.05.021 (1) (b) (iii), including an explanation of and rationale for the strategies developed, and the timeline for implementation.

Appropriates the sum of one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, from the general fund to the department of social and health services, all of which the department of social and health services must award to local governments and nonprofit organizations under this act.

Appropriates the sum of one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003, from the general fund to the department of social and health services, all of which the department of social and health services must award to local governments and nonprofit organizations under this act.