
SENATE BILL 5383

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senators Winsley, Thibaudeau, Deccio, Franklin, Keiser, Kline, Eide and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 01/23/2003. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to the establishment of a pharmacy connection
2 program; and adding a new section to chapter 74.09 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The department shall establish and advertise a pharmacy
7 connection program through which health care providers and members of
8 the public can obtain information about manufacturer-sponsored
9 prescription drug assistance programs. The department shall ensure
10 that the program has staff available who can assist persons in
11 procuring free or discounted medications from manufacturer-sponsored
12 prescription drug assistance programs by:

13 (a) Determining whether an assistance program is offered for the
14 needed drug or drugs;

15 (b) Evaluating the likelihood of a person obtaining drugs from an
16 assistance program under the guidelines formulated;

17 (c) Assisting persons with the application to and enrollment in an
18 assistance program;

1 (d) Coordinating and assisting physicians and others authorized to
2 prescribe medications with communications, including applications, made
3 on behalf of a person to a participating manufacturer for the purpose
4 of obtaining approval of the person in an assistance program; and

5 (e) Working with participating manufacturers to simplify the system
6 whereby eligible persons access drug assistance programs, including
7 development of a single application form and uniform enrollment
8 process.

9 (2) Implementation of the program shall initially target senior
10 citizens and shall include a toll-free telephone number, available
11 during regular business hours, which may be used to obtain information.

12 (3) The department may apply for and accept grants or gifts and may
13 enter into contracts with other state agencies or private organizations
14 to assist with the implementation of this program including, but not
15 limited to, contracts, gifts, or grants from pharmaceutical
16 manufacturers to assist with the direct costs of the program.

17 (4) The department shall notify pharmaceutical companies doing
18 business in Washington of the pharmacy connection program. Any
19 pharmaceutical company that does business in this state and that offers
20 a pharmaceutical assistance program shall notify the department of the
21 existence of the program, the drugs covered by the program, and all
22 information necessary to apply for assistance under the program.

23 (5) For purposes of this section, "manufacturer-sponsored
24 prescription drug assistance program" means a program offered by a
25 pharmaceutical company through which the company provides a drug or
26 drugs to eligible persons at no charge or at a reduced cost. The term
27 does not include the provision of a drug as part of a clinical trial.

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