AN ACT Relating to language requirements for prescription drug
labels; and adding a new section to chapter 18.64 RCW.

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

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. A new section is added to chapter 18.64
RCW to read as follows:

(1) Beginning January 1, 2023, upon the request of a patient,
patient's representative, or prescriber, a pharmacy or nonresident
pharmacy licensed under this chapter shall provide translated
directions for use and the prescription drug's side effects, if the
language requested is one of the languages selected by the commission
in subsection (2) of this section. The translated version and English
language version of the directions for use and side effects must
appear on the prescription container or label.

(2) The commission shall determine the languages for which
translation is required.

(a) The commission must consider the percent of the population in
Washington that speaks the language, that population's access to
health care, and principles of equity when determining which
languages to provide translations for and must choose 15 languages.
(b) Every five years the commission must reassess and update the
languages as needed based upon the factors listed in (a) of this
subsection.

(3) The commission shall:
   (a) Make translations of directions for use and common side
effects available in the languages the commission determines under
subsection (2) of this section; and
   (b) Develop signage to notify the public of the availability or
the translation service that pharmacies must post.

(4) The commission may contract with a state or nonstate entity
to complete the translations required under this section.

(5) A pharmacy or nonresident pharmacy is not required to provide
translated directions for use and side effects beyond the languages
and translations that the commission has made available.

(6) A pharmacy may provide its own translated directions for use
and side effects to comply with the requirements of this section.
Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a pharmacy
from providing translated directions for use or side effects beyond
the languages the commission has selected or beyond the directions
for use or side effects that the commission has made available in
translated form.

(7) The pharmacy or nonresident pharmacy shall be responsible
only for the accuracy of the English language directions for use and
side effects provided to the patient. A pharmacy, nonresident
pharmacy, or pharmacist may not be held liable for relying in good
faith on the translated directions for use or side effects provided
by the commission or for providing translated directions beyond those
the commission has made available if the translation was provided in
good faith.

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