
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 15

Session of
1985

INTRODUCED BY SAURMAN, BOYES, BUNT, FISCHER, BOWSER, CIMINI,
REBER, GLADECK, OLASZ, NAHILL, HAGARTY, E. Z. TAYLOR,
HERSHEY, VROON, FLICK, SEMMEL, CORNELL, MARKOSEK, SCHULER,
ARGALL, BOOK, JOHNSON, CLYMER, KUKOVICH, ITKIN, WOGAN,
SIRIANNI, HERMAN, J. L. WRIGHT, LEVIN, MICOZZIE, TRUMAN,
LASHINGER AND WESTON, JANUARY 23, 1985

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND WELFARE, JANUARY 23, 1985

AN ACT

1 Establishing a prescription drug education program for senior
2 citizens; imposing further duties on the Departments of Aging
3 and Health; and making an appropriation.

4 Finding that older adults are the largest users and most
5 dependent on medication in the Commonwealth and that nationally,
6 individuals over age 65 represent 11% of the total population
7 but account for 30% of the total expenditures on drugs, the
8 General Assembly hereby establishes a comprehensive senior
9 citizen prescription drug education program.

10 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
11 hereby enacts as follows:

12 Section 1. Short title.

13 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Senior
14 Citizen Prescription Drug Education Act.

15 Section 2. Prescription drug education program.

16 The Department of Aging, in cooperation with the Department

1 of Health, shall develop and implement a Statewide prescription
2 drug education program designed to inform eligible claimants of
3 the dangers of prescription drug abuse and misuse. The
4 prescription drug education program shall include, but not be
5 limited to, information concerning the following:

- 6 (1) The hazards of prescription drug overdose.
- 7 (2) The potential dangers of mixing prescription drugs.
- 8 (3) The danger of retaining unused prescription drugs
9 after the need to take them no longer exists.
- 10 (4) The necessity to carefully question physicians and
11 pharmacists concerning the effects of taking prescription
12 drugs.
- 13 (5) The advisability of maintaining a prescription drug
14 profile or other record of prescription drug dosage and
15 frequency of dosage.
- 16 (6) The desirability of advising family members of the
17 types and proper dosage of prescription drugs which are being
18 taken.
- 19 (7) The dangers of taking prescription drugs in excess
20 of prescribed dosages.
- 21 (8) The need to obtain complete, detailed directions
22 from the physician or pharmacist concerning the time period a
23 prescription drug should be taken.

24 Section 3. Appropriation.

25 The sum of \$250,000, or as much thereof as may be necessary,
26 is hereby appropriated to the Department of Aging from the State
27 Lottery Fund on a continuing basis for each fiscal year
28 commencing July 1, 1985.

29 Section 4. Effective date.

30 This act shall take effect in 60 days.