
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 520

Session of
1981

INTRODUCED BY MCINTYRE, RIEGER, PETRARCA, OLIVER, McMONAGLE,
GRAY, FEE, JACKSON, SEVENTY, PHILLIPS, WACHOB, LEHR, PRATT,
PERZEL, CLARK, KOWALYSHYN, RAPPAPORT, SPITZ, MULLEN, COHEN,
BELOFF, TIGUE, TRELLO, FISCHER, EMERSON, MRKONIC, O'DONNELL,
MICOZZIE, CORDISCO, GAMBLE, LUCYK, ZWIKL, PENDLETON,
LETTERMAN, CALTAGIRONE, BORSKI, BELFANTI AND GREENFIELD,
FEBRUARY 10, 1981

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND WELFARE, FEBRUARY 10, 1981

AN ACT

1 Establishing a program of pharmaceutical assistance to the aged.

2 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
3 hereby enacts as follows:

4 Section 1. Short title.

5 This act shall be known and may be cited as the
6 "Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged Act."

7 Section 2. Definitions.

8 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
9 have, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the
10 meanings given to them in this section:

11 "Department." The Department of Public Welfare.

12 "Eligible claimant." Any single resident of the Commonwealth
13 65 years of age and over whose annual income is less than the
14 maximum annual income, or any married resident whose annual
15 income is less than the maximum annual income, shall be eligible

1 for the program if such person is not otherwise qualified for
2 assistance under the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known
3 as the "Public Welfare Code."

4 "Maximum annual income." That annual income amount as
5 determined by the department. Such amount shall not exceed
6 \$9,000 in the case of single persons nor \$12,000 in the case of
7 the combined annual income of married persons.

8 "Prescription drugs." All legend drugs, insulin, insulin
9 syringes and insulin needles.

10 "Program." The program of pharmaceutical assistance to the
11 aged as established by this act.

12 "Reasonable cost." The cost of prescription drugs and a
13 dispensing fee, as determined by the department.

14 Section 3. Payments under program.

15 The program shall consist of payments to pharmacies on behalf
16 of eligible claimants for the reasonable cost of prescription
17 drugs which exceed a \$1 copayment per prescription or per
18 purchase of insulin, paid by each eligible claimant.

19 Section 4. Coordination of benefits.

20 Any otherwise eligible claimant whose prescription drug costs
21 are wholly covered by any other plan of assistance or insurance
22 shall be ineligible for assistance under this act. Any otherwise
23 eligible claimant whose prescription drug costs are covered in
24 part by any other plan of assistance or insurance may be
25 required to receive reduced assistance under the provisions of
26 this act.

27 Section 5. Funding.

28 (a) Lottery fund.--Funding for the program established by
29 this act shall be from any excess funds existing in the State
30 Lottery Fund after payment of all obligations arising under the

1 act of March 11, 1971 (P.L.104, No.3), known as the "Senior
2 Citizens Property Tax or Rent Rebate and Older Persons Inflation
3 Needs Act," on an annual basis.

4 (b) Appropriation.--The General Assembly may appropriate
5 General Fund moneys to fund in whole or in part, the program
6 established by this act.

7 Section 6. Payment system.

8 (a) Departmental regulations.--The department shall by
9 regulation establish a system of payments or reimbursements and
10 a system for determining eligibility, including provisions for
11 submission of proof of actual and anticipated annual income, and
12 evidence of complete or partial coverage of prescription drug
13 costs by any other assistance or insurance plans.

14 (b) Contract.--In lieu of a payment system established
15 pursuant to subsection (a) the department may contract for the
16 establishment of such a system, if such a contract would be
17 economically advantageous to the Commonwealth.

18 Section 7. Effective date.

19 This act shall take effect on July 1, 1982.