

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 131

Session of
1979

INTRODUCED BY J. L. WRIGHT, JR. AND BURNS, FEBRUARY 6, 1979

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND WELFARE, FEBRUARY 7, 1979

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), entitled "An
2 act to consolidate, editorially revise, and codify the public
3 welfare laws of the Commonwealth," providing for
4 pharmaceutical assistance for the aged.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. The act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known
8 as the "Public Welfare Code," is amended by adding a section to
9 read:

10 Section 448. Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged.--(a)
11 Any single resident of this Commonwealth sixty-five years of age
12 and over whose annual income is less than nine thousand dollars
13 (\$9,000), or any married resident whose annual income combined
14 with that of his spouse is less than twelve thousand dollars
15 (\$12,000), shall be eligible for pharmaceutical assistance to
16 the aged if he is not otherwise qualified for assistance under
17 this act.

18 (b) The program of pharmaceutical assistance to the aged
19 shall consist of payments or reimbursements for eighty percent

1 of the costs of prescription drugs of eligible persons which
2 exceed:

3 (1) One and one-half percent of annual income for eligible
4 persons whose annual income is more than a level of income which
5 would qualify them for assistance under this act, hereinafter
6 referred to as the "assistance level," but less than one and
7 one-third times said assistance level; or

8 (2) One and one-half percent of one and one-third times said
9 assistance level plus five percent of the difference between
10 annual income and one and one-third times said assistance level
11 for eligible persons whose annual income falls between one and
12 one-third times said assistance level and nine thousand dollars
13 (\$9,000).

14 For purposes of this act, "prescription drugs" means all
15 legend drugs and insulin.

16 (c) Any otherwise eligible person whose prescription drug
17 costs are wholly covered by any other plan of assistance or
18 insurance shall be ineligible for assistance under the
19 provisions of this section. Any otherwise eligible person whose
20 prescription drug costs are covered in part by any other plan of
21 assistance or insurance may receive supplemental assistance
22 under the provisions of this section.

23 (d) The secretary shall by regulation establish a system of
24 payments or reimbursements and a system for determining
25 eligibility, including provisions for submission of proof of
26 expenditures for prescription drugs, actual and anticipated
27 annual income, and evidence of complete or partial coverage of
28 prescription drug costs by any other assistance or insurance
29 plans.

30 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.