

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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**HOUSE BILL**  
**No. 1417** Session of  
1979

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INTRODUCED BY D. M. O'BRIEN AND KNEPPER, MAY 30, 1979

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND WELFARE, MAY 31, 1979

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AN ACT

1 To provide 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. Program established.

8 The program of "Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged" is  
9 hereby established in and shall be administered by the  
10 Department of the Aging. The program shall consist of payments  
11 to pharmacies for the reasonable cost of prescription drugs of  
12 eligible persons, which exceed a \$4 copayment per prescription  
13 or per purchase of insulin, paid by each eligible person. For  
14 purposes of this act:

15 "Prescription drugs." All legend drugs, insulin, insulin  
16 syringes and insulin needles.

17 "Reasonable cost." The cost of prescription drugs plus a  
18 dispensing fee, as determined by the department.

1 Section 3. Eligibility.

2 (a) Every resident of Pennsylvania who is 65 years of age or  
3 older and whose annual family income from all sources is less  
4 than \$7,500 or any married resident whose spouse resides in the  
5 household and whose annual family income from all sources is  
6 less than \$10,000 shall be eligible.

7 (b) Any otherwise eligible person whose prescription drug  
8 costs are covered, in whole or in part, by any other plan of  
9 assistance or insurance shall be ineligible for assistance under  
10 the provisions of this act to the extent of such coverage.

11 Section 4. Payments.

12 The department shall by regulation:

13 (1) establish a system of payments or reimbursements;

14 (2) establish a system for determining eligibility,  
15 including provisions for submission of proof of actual and  
16 anticipated annual income;

17 (3) require evidence of complete or partial coverage or  
18 prescription drug costs by any other assistance or insurance  
19 plans;

20 (4) establish a system to ensure that no pharmacy  
21 receives any payment under this act unless the pharmacy first  
22 obtains from the eligible person and submits to the  
23 department satisfactory proof that the prescription drug for  
24 which reimbursement is sought has been prescribed by a  
25 physician for the use of said eligible person;

26 (5) promulgate any other rule and regulation as may be  
27 necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

28 Section 5. Effective date.

29 This act shall take effect July 1, 1980.