

House Amendments to Senate Bill No. 2441

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE:

THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT THE HOUSE HAS ADOPTED THE AMENDMENTS SET OUT BELOW:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

1 **AMEND** by inserting the following after line 90 and by
2 renumbering the succeeding section:

3 **SECTION 2.** Sections 2 through 7 of this act shall be known
4 and may be cited as the "Mississippi Seniors and Indigents Rx
5 Program."

6 **SECTION 3.** As used in Sections 2 through 7 of this act, the
7 following terms shall have the following meanings:

8 (a) "Department" means the State Department of Health.

9 (b) "Program" means the Mississippi Seniors and
10 Indigents Rx Program established in Sections 2 through 7 of this
11 act.

12 **SECTION 4.** (1) The Legislature finds that many low income
13 seniors and other indigents are unaware of bona fide assistance
14 programs that are voluntarily offered by pharmaceutical
15 manufacturers to the elderly and underprivileged. It is the
16 intent of the Legislature to take steps necessary to make it more
17 widely known that such assistance is available and to make it
18 easier for people to apply for that assistance.

19 (2) The Mississippi Seniors and Indigents Rx Program is
20 established in the State Department of Health to help seniors and
21 qualified indigents in accessing pharmaceutical manufacturers'
22 discount cards and pharmaceutical assistance programs and to
23 provide seniors and qualified indigents with applications for
24 those programs. The department shall coordinate the operation of
25 the program with the Division of Medicaid, the Department of
26 Mental Health, the Department of Human Services and the State
27 Department of Rehabilitation Services to insure that the services
28 available under the program are maximized and that paperwork and
29 inconvenience to the seniors and qualified indigents are

30 minimized. The department may develop, maintain and make
31 available an Internet-based application form to the general public
32 and to each of those state agencies so that seniors and qualified
33 indigents may get applications for pharmaceutical assistance
34 programs at the local offices of any of those state agencies. The
35 department may coordinate with pharmaceutical manufacturers to
36 obtain program applications at no cost to the state.

37 **SECTION 5.** Subject to appropriation for the program, the
38 department may provide assistance to persons determined to be
39 eligible for services authorized by Sections 2 through 7 of this
40 act. The assistance provided by the department may include:

41 (a) Assisting seniors and qualified indigents in
42 accessing manufacturers' pharmaceutical assistance program
43 applications; and

44 (b) Assisting seniors and qualified indigents in
45 applying for manufacturers' pharmaceutical assistance programs.

46 **SECTION 6.** The department may seek and receive voluntary
47 monies from any sources, including federal funds and gifts, which
48 shall be expended for the purposes specified in Sections 2 through
49 7 of this act. The department also may accept voluntary funding
50 in the form of grants available to build community, public sector
51 and private sector partnerships. The department shall include
52 within the development of the program the assistance of
53 foundations, independent and chain community pharmacists,
54 volunteers, state agencies, community groups, religious groups,
55 area agencies on aging, corporations, hospitals, physicians, and
56 any other entity that can further the intent of the program.

57 **SECTION 7.** The department shall prepare and submit an annual
58 report on the program to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor,
59 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the
60 Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee and the Chairman of the
61 House Public Health and Human Services Committee. Those reports
62 shall include the number of clients served, the number of
63 prescriptions filled and refilled, and the value of the drugs
64 provided.

65 SECTION 8. (1) The State Board of Pharmacy may establish
66 and maintain a controlled substances prescription monitoring
67 program, which may be an electronic system for monitoring the
68 dispensing of controlled substances in the state.

69 (2) The board may contract with a vendor to establish and
70 maintain the electronic monitoring system under guidelines
71 promulgated by the board.

72 (3) The board may promulgate such rules and regulations as
73 necessary to implement the program.

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Don Richardson
Clerk of the House of Representatives