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 Proposed HOUSE AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL NO. 2441  
 by Reynolds, DeCeark, McBride, Perkins, Mark, W. Wright, Robinson (R4)  
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AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

SECTION 2 Sections 2 through 7 of this act shall be known

and may be cited as the "Mississippi Seniors and Indigents Rx Program."

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

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

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

SECTION 4 (1) The Legislature finds that many low income seniors and other indigents are unaware of bona fide assistance programs that are voluntarily offered by pharmaceutical manufacturers to the elderly and underprivileged. It is the intent of the Legislature to take steps necessary to make it more



37 widely known that such assistance is available and to make it  
38 easier for people to apply for that assistance.

39 (2) The Mississippi Seniors and Indigents Rx Program is  
40 established in the State Department of Health to help seniors and  
41 qualified indigents in accessing pharmaceutical manufacturers'  
42 discount cards and pharmaceutical assistance programs and to  
43 provide seniors and qualified indigents with applications for  
44 those programs. The department shall coordinate the operation of  
45 the program with the Division of Medicaid, the Department of  
46 Mental Health, the Department of Human Services and the State  
47 Department of Rehabilitation Services to insure that the services  
48 available under the program are maximized and that paperwork and  
49 inconvenience to the seniors and qualified indigents are  
50 minimized. The department may develop, maintain and make  
51 available an Internet-based application form to the general public  
52 and to each of those state agencies so that seniors and qualified  
53 indigents may get applications for pharmaceutical assistance  
54 programs at the local offices of any of those state agencies. The  
55 department may coordinate with pharmaceutical manufacturers to  
56 obtain program applications at no cost to the state.

57 SECTION 5. Subject to appropriation for the program, the  
58 department may provide assistance to persons determined to be  
59 eligible for services authorized by Sections 2 through 3 of this  
60 act. The assistance provided by the department may include:

61 (a) Assisting seniors and qualified indigents in  
62 accessing manufacturers' pharmaceutical assistance program  
63 applications; and

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

66 SECTION 6. The department may seek and receive voluntary  
67 monies from any sources, including federal funds and gifts, which  
68 shall be expended for the purposes specified in Sections 2 through  
69 3 of this act. The department also may accept voluntary funding



70 in the form of grants available to build community, public sector  
71 and private sector partnerships. The department shall include  
72 within the development of the program the assistance of  
73 foundations, independent and chain community pharmacists,  
74 volunteers, state agencies, community groups, religious groups,  
75 area agencies on aging, corporations, hospitals, physicians, and  
76 any other entity that can further the intent of the program.

77 SECTION 8.7 The department shall prepare and submit an annual  
78 report on the program to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor,  
79 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the  
80 Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee and the Chairman of the  
81 House Public Health and Human Services Committee. Those reports  
82 shall include the number of clients served, the number of  
83 prescriptions filled and refilled, and the value of the drugs  
84 provided.

85 SECTION 8.8 (1) The State Board of Pharmacy may establish  
86 and maintain a controlled substances prescription monitoring  
87 program, which may be an electronic system for monitoring the  
88 dispensing of controlled substances in the state.

89 (2) The board may contract with a vendor to establish and  
90 maintain the electronic monitoring system under guidelines  
91 promulgated by the board.

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

94 ~~SECTION 8. This act shall take effect and be in force from~~  
95 ~~and after July 1, 2004.~~

Jab/E