

SENATE BILL NO. 473  
INTRODUCED BY J. ELLIOTT

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A PRESCRIPTION DRUG EXPANSION PROGRAM UNDER MEDICAID; AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO IMPLEMENT THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG EXPANSION PROGRAM UNDER MEDICAID; PROVIDING AN ANNUAL ENROLLMENT FEE FOR THE PROGRAM; AUTHORIZING A LOAN FROM THE BOARD OF INVESTMENTS FOR THE STARTUP COST OF THE PROGRAM; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that the cost of prescription drugs is a major threat to the public health of Montana citizens; and

WHEREAS, other states have implemented innovative prescription drug access and affordability legislation that can be adapted to meet Montana's needs; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature finds it necessary to provide some relief for the high cost of prescription drugs by using an expanded Medicaid program for which reimbursement will be sought through Medicaid rebates and federal reimbursement programs.

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

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Definitions.** As used in [sections 1 through 7], unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Average wholesale price" means the wholesale price charged on a specific commodity that is assigned by the drug manufacturer and is listed in a nationally recognized drug pricing file.

(2) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in Title 2, chapter 15, part 22.

(3) "Discounted price" means a price that is less than or equal to the average wholesale price, minus a percentage between 6% and 25% determined by the department pursuant to [section 2], plus the dispensing fee provided under the Medicaid program under Title 53, chapter 6.

(4) "Gross household income" has the meaning provided in 15-30-171.

(5) "Manufacturer" means a manufacturer of prescription drugs and includes a subsidiary or affiliate of

a manufacturer.

(6) "Participating retail pharmacy" means a retail pharmacy located in this state or another business licensed to dispense prescription drugs in this state that is medicaid-approved.

(7) "Program" means the medicaid prescription drug program provided for in [section 2].

**NEW SECTION. Section 2. Prescription drug expansion program -- rules.** (1) The department shall provide for an expansion of prescription drug benefits under the medicaid program by offering prescription drugs at a discounted price to qualified individuals whose income is at a level set by the department at up to 300% of the federal poverty level. The department shall charge an annual enrollment fee of \$25 for the program. The enrollment fee must be deposited in the medicaid prescription drug rebate account established in subsection (2).

(2) There is a medicaid prescription drug rebate account in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the department. All money received by the state as rebates from pharmaceutical manufacturers for the medicaid prescription drug expansion program must be deposited in the account. The money in the account, which is administered by the department, must be used to expand medicaid prescription drug benefits. Interest on account balances accrues to the account. The purpose of the account is to:

(a) reimburse participating retail pharmacies for the discounted price less the average wholesale price of prescription drugs provided to qualified residents pursuant to [sections 1 through 7]; and

(b) reimburse the department for contracted services, administrative costs, associated computer costs, professional fees paid to participating retail pharmacies, and other reasonable program costs.

(3) The department shall provide for sufficient personnel to ensure efficient administration of the program. The extent and the magnitude of the program must be determined by the department on the basis of the calculated need of the recipient population and available funds. The department may not spend more on this program than is available through appropriations, federal or other grants, and other established and committed funding sources. The department may accept, for the purposes of carrying out this program, federal funds appropriated under any federal law relating to the furnishing of free or low-cost drugs to disadvantaged, elderly, and disabled individuals, may take action that is necessary for the purposes of carrying out that federal law, and may accept from any other agency of government, individual, group, or corporation funds that may be available to carry out [sections 1 through 7].

(4) The department may adopt rules relating to the conduct of this program. The rules may be based upon rules adopted in Hawaii to administer a similar program.

(5) The department shall adopt rules to establish the discounted price to be charged to participants in

the program. The department may establish a discounted price to encourage the use of generic drugs over higher-cost brand-name drugs.

(6) The department shall establish by rule eligibility based upon the applicant's family income as provided in [section 3]. The total income may not exceed 300% of the federal poverty level. The department may adopt rules defining income. In establishing eligibility based upon income, the department shall take into account the amount of funding available for the program. The department shall issue enrollment cards to eligible individuals.

**NEW SECTION. Section 3. Eligibility -- income determination.** (1) To be eligible for the program, an individual must be:

(a) at least 62 years of age; or  
(b) 18 years of age or older and determined to be disabled by the standards of the federal social security program.

(2) Individuals are eligible for the program if the gross household income is at or below the amount set by the department, which may not be more than 300% of the federal poverty level.

**NEW SECTION. Section 4. Specifications for administration of program.** The department shall adopt specifications for the administration and management of the program. Specifications may include but are not limited to program objectives, accounting and handling practices, supervisory authority, and an evaluation methodology. The department shall apply for any waivers of federal law that are necessary to implement the program.

**NEW SECTION. Section 5. Appeals.** An eligibility determination made by the department based on information provided by the department of revenue is final, subject to appeal in accordance with the appeal process established in the medicaid program.

**NEW SECTION. Section 6. Obligations of department.** The department shall establish simplified procedures for determining eligibility and issuing Montana prescription enrollment cards to qualified individuals under [section 2] and shall undertake outreach efforts to build public awareness of the program and maximize enrollment of qualified individuals. The department may adjust the requirements and terms of the program to accommodate any new federally funded prescription drug programs.

NEW SECTION. **Section 7. Contracting.** The department may contract for the administration of any components of the program, including but not limited to outreach, eligibility, claims, administration, and drug rebate recovery and redistribution.

NEW SECTION. **Section 8. Loan for startup costs.** The department of public health and human services may apply for a loan from the board of investments under the revolving loan program provided for in 17-5-1605 to pay the startup costs of the program provided for in [sections 1 through 7].

NEW SECTION. **Section 9. Codification instruction.** [Sections 1 through 7] are intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 53, and the provisions of Title 53 apply to [sections 1 through 7].

NEW SECTION. **Section 10. Severability.** If a part of [this act] is invalid, all valid parts that are severable from the invalid part remain in effect. If a part of [this act] is invalid in one or more of its applications, the part remains in effect in all valid applications that are severable from the invalid applications.

NEW SECTION. **Section 11. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2003.

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