

1 AN ACT concerning health care.

2 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,  
3 represented in the General Assembly:

4 Section 5. The Illinois Act on Aging is amended by adding  
5 Section 8.08 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 105/8.08 new)

7 Sec. 8.08. Medassist board.

8 (a) Declaration and purpose.

9 (1) The General Assembly hereby declares that the  
10 rising cost of prescription medications has imposed a  
11 significant hardship on individuals who are on limited  
12 budgets and who possess no insurance coverage for  
13 prescription medications. As a consequence, a serious  
14 public health concern in the State has resulted. It is  
15 the public policy of the State to assist persons in need  
16 of prescription medications for the maintenance or  
17 restoration of their health.

18 (2) The purpose of this Act is (i) to award grants  
19 to organizations for the purpose of assisting individuals  
20 in accessing free and discounted prescription programs  
21 offered by pharmaceutical manufacturers and others; (ii)  
22 to explore, develop, and implement innovative strategies  
23 for the purpose of managing the rising costs of  
24 prescription medications and increasing access to  
25 prescription medications by individuals with an inability  
26 to pay for them; and (iii) to compile data and  
27 information regarding the costs of prescription  
28 medications and related matters.

29 (b) Illinois Medassist Board. There is hereby created  
30 the Illinois Medassist Board. The Board shall be chaired by

1 the Director of Aging and in addition shall include the  
2 Director of Public Aid, the Secretary of Human Services, the  
3 Director of Central Management Services, the Comptroller, the  
4 Treasurer, and the Director of Public Health. The Board shall  
5 also include 4 public members appointed by the Director of  
6 Aging. The public members shall serve 3-year terms and may be  
7 re-appointed for an unlimited number of terms.

8 (c) Responsibilities of the Board.

9 (1) The responsibilities of the Board include, but  
10 are not limited to, the following: (i) coordinating and  
11 promoting services of organizations throughout the State  
12 that assist individuals in accessing prescription  
13 medications offered for free or at reduced prices by  
14 pharmaceutical manufacturers in order to ensure that  
15 citizens in all parts of the State have access to  
16 prescription drugs; (ii) seeking and receiving funds that  
17 may available from private and public sources for  
18 prescription medication assistance; (iii) awarding  
19 grants, pursuant to available appropriations and other  
20 funds received for purposes of this Section, to community  
21 or statewide organizations for the purpose of assisting  
22 individuals in accessing free and discount prescription  
23 programs offered by pharmaceutical manufacturers and  
24 others; (iv) providing technical assistance and training  
25 to help build the capacity of communities, organizations,  
26 and systems to develop, implement, and evaluate  
27 prescription medication assistance programs; and (v)  
28 notifying the public of programs that offer assistance to  
29 qualified individuals to obtain prescription medications  
30 for free or at reduced prices.

31 (2) The Board may use a reasonable amount of funds  
32 from the Medassist Fund for costs associated with the  
33 administration of this Section. The chairperson of the  
34 Board may appoint an Executive Director or contract with

1       a not-for-profit or other agency for any or all of these  
2       administrative functions.

3       (d) Medassist Fund. The Medassist Fund is created as a  
4       special fund in the State Treasury into which funds received  
5       from private, State, or federal sources specifically for  
6       prescription medication assistance may be deposited, and from  
7       which funds shall be appropriated by the General Assembly to  
8       the Illinois Medassist Board.

9           Section 10. The State Finance Act is amended by adding  
10       Section 5.595 as follows:

11           (30 ILCS 105/5.95 new)

12       Sec. 5.595. The Medassist Fund.