

HB2027



94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2005 and 2006

HB2027

Introduced 2/14/2005, by Rep. Michael J. Madigan - Barbara Flynn Currie - Kevin Joyce

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

320 ILCS 50/5

Amends the Senior Pharmaceutical Assistance Act. Makes a technical change in a Section concerning the findings of the General Assembly.

LRB094 02651 DRJ 32652 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning aging.

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

4 Section 5. The Senior Pharmaceutical Assistance Act is
5 amended by changing Section 5 as follows:

6 (320 ILCS 50/5)

7 Sec. 5. Findings. The ~~The~~ General Assembly finds:

8 (1) Senior citizens identify pharmaceutical assistance as
9 the single most critical factor to their health, well-being,
10 and continued independence.

11 (2) The State of Illinois currently operates 2
12 pharmaceutical assistance programs that benefit seniors: (i)
13 the program of pharmaceutical assistance under the Senior
14 Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief and
15 Pharmaceutical Assistance Act and (ii) the Aid to the Aged,
16 Blind, or Disabled program under the Illinois Public Aid Code.
17 The State has been given authority to establish a third
18 program, SeniorRx Care, through a federal Medicaid waiver.

19 (3) Each year, numerous pieces of legislation are filed
20 seeking to establish additional pharmaceutical assistance
21 benefits for seniors or to make changes to the existing
22 programs.

23 (4) Establishment of a pharmaceutical assistance review
24 committee will ensure proper coordination of benefits,
25 diminish the likelihood of duplicative benefits, and ensure
26 that the best interests of seniors are served.

27 (5) In addition to the State pharmaceutical assistance
28 programs, several private entities, such as drug manufacturers
29 and pharmacies, also offer prescription drug discount or
30 coverage programs.

31 (6) Many seniors are unaware of the myriad of public and
32 private programs available to them.

1 (7) Establishing a pharmaceutical clearinghouse with a
2 toll-free hot-line and local outreach workers will educate
3 seniors about the vast array of options available to them and
4 enable seniors to make an educated and informed choice that is
5 best for them.

6 (8) Estimates indicate that almost one-third of senior
7 citizens lack prescription drug coverage. The federal
8 government, states, and the pharmaceutical industry each have a
9 role in helping these uninsured seniors gain access to
10 life-saving medications.

11 (9) The State of Illinois has recognized its obligation to
12 assist Illinois' neediest seniors in purchasing prescription
13 medications, and it is now time for pharmaceutical
14 manufacturers to recognize their obligation to make their
15 medications affordable to seniors.

16 (Source: P.A. 92-594, eff. 6-27-02.)