

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 723

(Senator Teitelbaum, *et al.*)

Finance

Health and Government Operations

Pharmacies - Posting of Prescription Drug Prices

This bill requires a pharmacy that is open to the public to print the list of the 25 most commonly used prescription drugs posted on the Attorney General's web site, enter the pharmacy's price for each of the drugs on the list, and post the list in a prominent location inside the pharmacy. The pharmacy must do this on the first day of each month.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill would not directly affect governmental operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: A licensed pharmacist must give a patient the current price of a prescription drug or device the pharmacy sells if the patient requests it in person or by telephone.

Background: The State Board of Pharmacy reports that there are 376 independent pharmacies and 683 chain pharmacies in Maryland.

The 25 most commonly used drugs in Maryland posted on the Maryland Attorney General's web site are: Ambien, Aricept, Celebrex, Celexa, Depakote, Diovan, Fosamax, furosemide, hydrochlorothiazide, Lexapro, Lipitor, Nexium, Norvasc, Plavix, Pravachol,

Premarin, Prevacid, Toprol XL, Viagra, Wellbutrin SR, Xalatan Opth., Zithromax, Zocor, Zolofit, and Zyrtec. The site also includes drug prices that are the prices pharmacies reported to the Maryland Medical Assistance Program as their usual and customary prices from November 1, 2004 through December 31, 2004.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Attorney General's Office, Department of Legislative Services

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