

**EHB 1897**

**THE STATE SENATE**  
**Tuesday, April 3, 2001**

**ENGROSSED**

**House Bill No. 1897**

**As Amended**

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1897 - By: COX, GILBERT, FIELDS, POPE (Tim), BENGE, GRAY, HEFNER, LINDLEY, MASS, PIATT and TYLER of the House and ROBINSON and HENRY of the Senate.

[ poor persons - Oklahoma Low Cost Prescription and Nonprescription Drug Assistance Program - program components - codification - effective date - emergency ]

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 166.2 of Title 56, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. It is the intent of the Legislature to:

1. Support initiatives that provide assistance to older, low-income Oklahomans who are in need of basic daily living and health care necessities;

2. Ensure that older, low-income Oklahomans receive necessary prescription and nonprescription medication as well as other medical supplies; and

3. Ensure that in times of extreme weather conditions and other conditions in the state that older, low-income Oklahomans will not

1 have to choose between paying for medical needs or home utility  
2 needs.

3 B. The provisions of this section shall be known and may be  
4 cited as the "Oklahoma Low Cost Prescription and Nonprescription  
5 Drug Assistance Program".

6 C. The Department of Human Services shall develop and implement  
7 a program to provide low-cost prescription and nonprescription  
8 drugs, medication and medical supplies to eligible persons through a  
9 voucher system. The Department may issue vouchers in the amount of  
10 Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) per month per eligible client.

11 D. Specifications for administration and management of the  
12 program which may include, but not be limited to, program  
13 objectives, approved prescription and nonprescription drugs,  
14 medication and medical supplies, accounting and handling practices,  
15 supervisory authority and evaluation methodology.

16 E. The Commission for Human Services shall promulgate rules to  
17 implement the provisions of this section.

18 F. 1. The Department shall, within six (6) months of the  
19 effective date of this act, design and implement a voucher program  
20 for payment of approved costs of approved prescriptions and  
21 nonprescription drugs, medication and medical supplies.

22 2. The Commission shall establish by rule the mechanism and  
23 procedures for payment or reimbursement for vouchers. The

1 procedures established shall allow the local county offices of the  
2 Department to provide vouchers and/or payment for vouchers presented  
3 to them.

4 G. For purposes of this section, the term "eligible persons"  
5 are individuals who are sixty-five (65) years of age and older and  
6 who also meet eligibility requirements of the State Supplemental  
7 Income Program.

8 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2001.

9 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
10 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby  
11 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
12 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

13 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, dated 3-28-01 - DO  
14 PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.