

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 48th Legislature (2001)

HOUSE BILL HB1897

By: Cox and Gilbert

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to poor persons; stating legislative intent; creating the Oklahoma Low Cost Prescription and Nonprescription Drug Assistance Program; providing for program components; providing for promulgation of rules; providing for issuance of vouchers; providing for payment; defining term; providing for limit; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. The Commission shall establish by rule the mechanism and procedures for payment or reimbursement for vouchers. The procedures established shall allow the local county offices of the Department to provide vouchers and/or payment for vouchers presented to them.

G. For purposes of this section, the term "eligible persons" are individuals who are sixty-five (65) to seventy-nine (79) years of age and who also meet eligibility requirements of the State Supplemental Income Program.

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

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

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