ENGROSSED SENATE
BILL NO. 547

By: Adelson, Lawler, Paddack, Rabon, Leftwich and Easley of the Senate

and

Shelton and Steele of the House

[professions and occupations - Oklahoma Prescription Drug Discount Program Act of 2005 – codification - effective date - 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 368 of Title 59, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma Prescription Drug Discount Program Act of 2005".

2. Recognizing that many Oklahomans do not have health insurance coverage for prescription drugs, the Oklahoma Legislature herby establishes provisions to increase access to prescription drugs for low income Oklahomans.

B. The Oklahoma Health Care Authority shall contract with a pharmacy benefit manager for the administration of a prescription drug discount program that will:

1. Enable persons without prescription drug coverage to be linked to appropriate manufacturer-sponsored prescription drug programs via the use of implementation of computer software;

2. Establish agreements with prescription drug manufacturers that outline available discounts and drugs, and in which prescription drug manufacturers agree to allow the Oklahoma Health

Care Authority contracted pharmacy benefit manager to be the means testing agent for their program;

3. Negotiate prescription drug discounts with manufacturers and pharmacy networks and implement a "one-stop" Oklahoma Prescription Drug Discount program for uninsured seniors and families;

4. Enroll persons into a prescription drug discount card program using specialized computer software that will allow the consumer to have access via a single application process to all participating prescription drug manufacturer discount programs;

5. Include outreach and advertising of the program in order to provide access to the program to potential consumers who do not have access to prescription drug coverage; and

6. Charge a basic enrollment fee to cover the administrative costs of the program; provided, however, this provision shall not apply to an applicant whose income is less than 150% of the Federal Poverty Level.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2005.

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.

Passed the Senate the 3rd day of March, 2005.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____, 2005.

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Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives