

CS for SB 690

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23

**THE STATE SENATE**  
**Wednesday, March 2, 2005**

**Committee Substitute for**  
**Senate Bill No. 690**

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 690 - By: PADDACK, LAWLER,  
ADELSON and GUMM of the Senate and STEELE of the House.

[ poor persons - prescription drug assistance programs -  
effective date ]

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 2, Chapter 337, O.S.L.  
2002 (56 O.S. Supp. 2004, Section 1010.22), is amended to read as  
follows:

Section 1010.22 A. The Department of Human Services shall  
establish a program through which health care providers and members  
of the public can obtain information about manufacturer-sponsored  
prescription drug assistance programs and shall provide such  
information to pharmacies, physicians and other appropriate health  
care providers, and to the general public. The Department shall  
ensure that the program has staff available who can, at a minimum:

- 1. Determine whether a pharmaceutical program is offered for  
the drug or drugs;
- 2. Determine whether a person is eligible for assistance  
through a pharmaceutical program; and

1           3. Assist a person to make application to and enroll in a  
2 pharmaceutical assistance program.

3           B. Initial implementation of the program shall target senior  
4 citizens and shall utilize the existing toll-free Senior Info-Line  
5 telephone number for senior citizen services.

6           C. The Department shall implement additional strategies,  
7 subject to available resources and the recommendations of the  
8 Oklahoma Pharmacy Connection Council, to improve access to  
9 prescription drugs for citizens who have no or inadequate health  
10 insurance or other resources for the purchase of medically necessary  
11 prescription drugs.

12          D. The Department shall encourage public or private nonprofit  
13 agencies to provide services that improve information about and  
14 access to prescription drug assistance programs available through  
15 pharmaceutical manufacturers and the federal government.

16          E. The Oklahoma Department of Commerce shall make funding  
17 available to Community Action Agencies in this state that have, or  
18 that develop in the future, programs that provide prescription  
19 assistance services.

20          F. Community Action Agencies that receive such funding shall:

21           1. Maintain a dedicated telephone line and computer with  
22 Internet access with appropriate software during normal business  
23 hours; and

1        2. Have staff available who, at a minimum, can:

2            a. develop and implement community awareness about  
3            prescription assistance services offered by the  
4            Community Action Agency,

5            b. determine whether a pharmaceutical program is offered  
6            for the drug or drugs a person needs,

7            c. determine whether a person is eligible for assistance  
8            through a pharmaceutical program,

9            d. assist a person to make application to and enroll in a  
10           pharmaceutical assistance program,

11           e. keep accurate records of the number of clients served,

12           f. maintain the confidentiality of all client information  
13           including, but not limited to, the client's identity,  
14           application information and other records, and

15           g. estimate the value of prescriptions provided to  
16           clients under the program.

17        G. The Department may apply for and accept grants or gifts and  
18 may enter into contracts with other state agencies or private  
19 organizations to assist with the implementation of the Oklahoma  
20 Pharmacy Connection Program including, but not limited to,  
21 contracts, gifts or grants from pharmaceutical manufacturers to  
22 assist with the direct costs of the program, and take such other  
23 action as necessary and appropriate to accomplish the purposes of

1 and implement the provisions of the Oklahoma Pharmacy Connection  
2 Program.

3 ~~E.~~ H. The Department of Human Services shall notify  
4 pharmaceutical companies doing business in Oklahoma of the Oklahoma  
5 Pharmacy Connection Program. Any pharmaceutical company that does  
6 business in this state and that offers a pharmaceutical assistance  
7 program shall notify the Department of Human Services of the  
8 existence of the program, the drugs covered by the program, and all  
9 information necessary to apply for assistance under the program.

10 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2005.

11 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, dated 2-23-05 - DO  
12 PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.