

HB 2935 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 5/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires pharmacies to notify people to whom a prescription drug is dispensed that a prescription reader is available to the person upon request. Requires pharmacies to provide a prescription reader to a person who is blind. Requires pharmacies that provide a prescription reader to ensure that the prescription label is compatible with the reader. Defines "prescription reader." Exempts pharmacies located in correctional facilities from requirements. Requires the State Board of Pharmacy to adopt rules. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

For consumers to safely and effectively manage their medications, it is critical that they understand the types of medications prescribed, the recommended doses, duration, and potential side effects. Prescription drugs are dispensed by health care professionals and pharmacists with labels that provide written information and instructions for consumers, but reading and understanding the labels on prescription drugs can be difficult for individuals who are visually impaired or blind. In recent years, companies have developed devices that read the information provided on a prescription bottle aloud, to help individuals identify and manage their medications.

House Bill 2935-A helps individuals who are visually impaired by providing access to a prescription reader at certain pharmacies.

HHC Vote: 7-4

House Floor Vote: 41-19