

HB 2935 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Alonso Leon

House Committee On Health Care

Action Date: 04/09/19

Action: Do pass with amendments and rescind subsequent referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 7-4-0-0

Yeas: 7 - Alonso Leon, Greenlick, Keny-Guyer, Mitchell, Nosse, Prusak, Salinas

Nays: 4 - Boles, Drazan, Hayden, Noble

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/5, 4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires pharmacies to notify a person of the availability of a prescription reading device if the individual identifies as visually impaired or blind. Requires pharmacies to provide a device that is appropriate to the impairment for the duration of a prescription. Authorizes the State Board of Pharmacy to adopt rules. Defines terms. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Costs for pharmacies to implement provisions of the measure including devices, labels, and software
- Subscription-based model for pharmacies
- Number of manufacturers that offer technological aids to individuals who are visually impaired; alternative technologies currently available
- Establishing protocols and requirements for pharmacies; administrative burden for small and rural pharmacies

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Adds pharmacies that dispense prescription drugs by mail, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies to list of pharmacies required to comply with requirements.

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.