

Senate Bill 598

Sponsored by Senator BATES

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Establishes Pharmaceutical Patient Assistance Program in Office for Oregon Health Policy and Research.

Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Office for Oregon Health Policy and Research for program.

Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2005.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to patient assistance programs; appropriating money; and declaring an emergency.

2
3 Whereas the pharmaceutical manufacturing industry offers patient assistance programs that
4 provide free or reduced-cost prescription drugs to patients who lack prescription drug benefit cov-
5 erage because of indigence or a lack of insurance; and

6 Whereas approximately 100,000 Oregonians are currently benefiting from patient assistance
7 programs; and

8 Whereas the opportunity exists to substantially increase the number of Oregonians taking ad-
9 vantage of patient assistance programs by creating a statewide network of trained volunteers to
10 assist eligible Oregonians in applying for patient assistance programs and reduce administrative
11 burdens on physicians providing care to eligible patients; now, therefore,

12 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

13 **SECTION 1. (1) The Pharmaceutical Patient Assistance Program is established in the**
14 **Office for Oregon Health Policy and Research. The purpose of the program is to develop a**
15 **statewide network of trained volunteers who assist patients in applying to pharmaceutical**
16 **companies for free or discounted prescription drugs. The program shall:**

17 (a) **Develop and distribute materials to be used to train volunteers to assist patients in**
18 **applying for patient assistance programs offered by pharmaceutical companies;**

19 (b) **Coordinate with existing networks of trained volunteers; and**

20 (c) **Maintain a directory of trained volunteers available to assist patients.**

21 (2) **The office may accept contributions of moneys and assistance from public and private**
22 **sources and shall agree to the conditions placed on the moneys consistent with the purposes**
23 **of the program.**

24 **SECTION 2. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-**
25 **ated to the Office for Oregon Health Policy and Research, for the biennium beginning July**
26 **1, 2005, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$_____ , which may be expended for the**
27 **purposes described in section 1 of this 2005 Act.**

28 **SECTION 3. This 2005 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
29 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2005 Act takes effect**
30 **July 1, 2005.**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

