

ANALYSIS OF HOUSE BILL 1702

Creating the Medicaid trial prescription program.

SPONSORS: Representative Barlett and Conway.

BACKGROUND: The state Medicaid program is a collaborative program with the federal Medicaid Program for providing health care services to eligible low-income persons. Prescription drugs are included in the services provided by the program.

SUMMARY: The Department of Social & Health Services is required to establish a trial prescription program for reducing drug costs.

Under the trial program, the department directs pharmacists to dispense a limited number of doses of an initial prescription of the drug. Exception would be made for undue hardship on a patient returning the balance of the prescription.

Prescribing practices and pharmacists are to be informed of the program parameters in order to collaborate in its implementation.

The drugs to be included in the program are determined by the department in consultation with its Drug Utilization Review Committee.

PREPARED BY: John Beresford Welsh, Senior Counsel
House Health Care Committee, P.O. Box **40600**
Olympia, WA. 98504-0600, (360) 786-7133