

HB 1257 -- DRUG WHOLESALE IMPORTATION PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Doll

This bill authorizes the Department of Health and Senior Services to develop by January 1, 2022, a plan for implementing a Canadian prescription drug importation program as specified in the bill. The program will allow Missouri residents to access safe pharmaceuticals at a lower cost and will sunset in six years after the effective date.

The costs of the program shall be covered by fees on the prescription drugs, or other appropriate approach, but shall not jeopardize consumer savings. The Department of Health and Senior Services shall use a sound methodology to select drugs eligible for importation based on savings, safety, and attention to all federal laws, including patent laws on branded products.

Before February 1, 2022 the Department of Health and Senior Services shall submit a formal request to the Secretary of Health and Human Services for certification of the wholesale prescription drug importation program.

As part of the implementation process, the Department of Health and Senior Services shall:

- (1) Ensure that a state agency becomes licensed as a wholesaler;
- (2) Contract with a state-licensed distributor or distributors;
- (3) Contract with a licensed, regulated Canadian supplier or suppliers;
- (4) Engage health plans, employers, pharmacies, providers, and consumers;
- (5) Develop a registration process for health plans, pharmacies, and administering providers who wish to participate;
- (6) Create a publicly available source for listing prices of imported products that will be available to all participating entities and consumers;
- (7) Create an outreach and marketing plan to generate program awareness;
- (8) Create and staff a hotline to answer questions from any affected sector starting in the weeks before the program becomes operational that addresses the needs and questions of consumers,

employers, plans, pharmacies, and providers;

(9) Establish the audit function and a two-year audit work plan cycle; and

(10) Conduct any other activities determined to be important to successful implementation as determined by the Department of Health and Senior Services.

Before January 1, 2023 and annually thereafter, the Department of Health and Senior Services shall submit a report to the General Assembly on the status of the wholesale drug program as specified in the bill.

This bill shall sunset six years after the effective date of the bill.

This bill is similar to HB 2652 (2020).