

SESSION OF 2003

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2233

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Financial Institutions and Insurance

Brief*

HB 2233, as amended, enacts the Uniform Prescription Drug Information Card Act. The act applies to any health benefit plan that is amended, delivered, issued, or renewed on or after the effective date of the bill (July 1, 2003). The bill requires a health benefit plan that provides coverage for prescription drugs or devices and issues a card for claims processing and any administrator of a health plan, including pharmacy benefit managers and third party administrators, must issue a card containing uniform prescription drug information to each person entitled to such card under the health plan. If required for claims adjudication, the card must specifically identify and display the information set out in the bill.

Health benefit plans and administrators of such plans, in lieu of a card, may use other electronic technology which contains all of the information required for claims adjudication, as long as the technology is provided by the plan or administrator of the plan to the pharmacies which will adjudicate the claims. The bill further provides that the uniform prescription drug information card may be used for any and all coverages under a health benefit plan.

Finally, the Insurance Commissioner may adopt rules and regulations that are necessary to implement the act, and to administer and enforce the act according to the designated provisions of the Unfair Trade Practice Act.

Senate Committee amendments require the card to be given not to each insured but to those persons entitled to the card under the health benefit plan.

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org/kldr>

Background

HB 2233 was recommended by the Kansas Pharmacists Association whose representatives explained that dealing with the administrative burdens created by inconsistent and confusing information on prescription drug cards creates unnecessary barriers to pharmacists providing care to their patients. (Representative Horst had recommended similar legislation in the form of HB 2268.)

The bill is supported by Dillon Stores.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget indicates that the Insurance Department will be able to implement and enforce the provisions of the bill with current staff and within existing resources.