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LC01259/SUB A  
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# STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2004

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A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT

Introduced By: Representatives Costantino, Slater, Anguilla, Malik, and Carter

Date Introduced: January 29, 2004

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 42-66.2 of the General Laws entitled "Pharmaceutical Assistance  
2 to the Elderly Act" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:  
3           **42-66.2-11. Special Legislative Commission to Reconcile the Provisions of the**  
4 **Pharmaceutical Assistance Program with the Medicare Prescription Drug and**  
5 **Modernization Act of 2003.** – Due to the passage of the federal Medicare Prescription Drug and  
6 Modernization Act of 2003, some consumers of the Rhode Island Pharmaceutical Assistance for  
7 the Elderly Program will be eligible for federal Medicare coverage for some of their medication  
8 needs. It is the intent of the general assembly to study the provisions of the new federal act for  
9 Medicare prescription coverage and make recommendations for adjustments to the Rhode Island  
10 Pharmaceutical Assistance for the Elderly Program as necessary to ensure the maximum possible  
11 coverage and benefit to eligible consumers. The Special Legislative Commission to Reconcile  
12 the Provisions of the Pharmaceutical Assistance Program with the Medicare Prescription Drug  
13 and Modernization Act of 2003 shall be composed of ten (10) members, one of whom shall be the  
14 director of the department of human services, one of whom shall be the director of the department  
15 of elderly affairs, four (4) of whom shall be appointed from the house of representatives by the  
16 speaker of the house, with one of said appointees belonging to the minority leader, and four (4) of  
17 whom shall be appointed from the senate by the president of the senate, with one of said  
18 appointees belonging to the minority leader. The commission shall choose from among its  
19 member's co-chairpersons representing both chambers. State agencies shall make available any

1 information deemed necessary by the commission to complete its task. The commission shall  
2 make its recommendations to the house and senate committees on finance on or before February  
3 15, 2005.

4 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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1           This act would establish the Special Legislative Committee to Reconcile the Provisions  
2 of the Pharmaceutical Assistance Program with the Medicare Prescription Drug and  
3 Modernization Act of 2003. The purpose of the commission is to study the effect of the new  
4 federal act on the Rhode Island Pharmaceutical Assistance for the Elderly Program, and make  
5 recommendations to ensure the maximum possible coverage and benefits to eligible consumers.  
6 The special committee would report to the house and senate finance committees by February 15,  
7 2005.

8           This act would take effect upon passage.

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