

The Senate Health and Human Services Committee offered the following substitute to SB 243:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend of Chapter 6 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 services for the aging, so as to enact a new article; to provide for the development of a
3 strategy for disseminating information to the public concerning the availability of
4 pharmaceutical assistance programs and pharmaceutical discount purchasing card programs;
5 to provide for the coordination of such dissemination of information through the Division of
6 Aging Services of the Department of Human Resources; to provide for the establishment and
7 maintenance of a website and a toll-free telephone number for the dissemination of
8 information; to ensure that area agencies on aging receive adequate information concerning
9 the services; to provide for the encouragement of pharmaceutical manufacturers to include
10 user-friendly application forms for pharmaceutical discount purchasing card programs on
11 their respective websites; to provide for an analysis of the feasibility of developing a single
12 application form for eligibility; to provide that the director of the Division of Aging Services
13 may appoint an advisory task force; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws;
14 and for other purposes.

15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

16 Chapter 6 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to services for the
17 aging, is amended by adding a new article to read as follows:
18

"ARTICLE 8

19 49-6-90.

20
21 (a) The Division of Aging Services of the Department of Human Resources shall develop
22 a strategy, in coordination with the area agencies on aging, as defined in Code Section
23 49-6-72, and other private and nonprofit organizations, for disseminating information to
24 the public concerning the availability of pharmaceutical assistance programs and
25 pharmaceutical discount purchasing card programs and for training senior citizen

1 volunteers to assist in completing applications for pharmaceutical assistance programs and
2 pharmaceutical discount purchasing cards.

3 (b) The Division of Aging Services shall coordinate the dissemination of information to
4 the public regarding any pharmaceutical assistance programs and any pharmaceutical
5 discount purchasing card programs while maintaining a neutral posture regarding such
6 programs. The information shall include pharmaceutical benefits provided under the
7 medicare program and how such benefits may help senior citizens with the costs of
8 pharmaceutical benefits.

9 (c) The Division of Aging Services shall establish and maintain a website to provide for
10 the dissemination of information pursuant to this Code section.

11 (d) The Division of Aging Services shall establish and maintain a toll-free telephone
12 number which shall provide recorded information regarding pharmaceutical assistance
13 programs and pharmaceutical discount purchasing cards and other services available
14 through the division and other appropriate agencies or organizations.

15 (e) The Division of Aging Services shall ensure that each area agency on aging is provided
16 with adequate information concerning the services provided by and through the division,
17 including, but not limited to, its toll-free telephone number and website information on
18 pharmaceutical assistance programs and pharmaceutical discount purchasing card programs
19 provided pursuant to this Code section.

20 (f)(1) The Division of Aging Services shall encourage pharmaceutical manufacturers to
21 include application forms for pharmaceutical discount purchasing card programs on their
22 respective websites in a format capable of being downloaded and printed by consumers.
23 When practicable, the website maintained by the division shall include direct links to
24 such forms.

25 (2) The Division of Aging Services shall report to the Governor and the General
26 Assembly no later than October 30, 2005, on the feasibility of developing a single
27 application form for citizens of this state to use to seek eligibility for existing
28 pharmaceutical assistance programs and pharmaceutical discount purchasing cards. In
29 determining feasibility, the Division of Aging Services shall obtain copies of the
30 application forms used by such pharmaceutical assistance programs and pharmaceutical
31 discount purchasing cards in this state, compile a list of the various information required
32 to complete such application forms, identify common elements, and analyze the forms
33 for readability and simplicity. Upon completion of this analysis, the Division of Aging
34 Services shall assess the feasibility of designing a single, concise application form that
35 is logically formatted, written in clear and easily understandable language, and covers any
36 and all data that may be required to obtain eligibility for any such pharmaceutical
37 assistance programs and pharmaceutical discount purchasing cards.

1 (g) The director of the division may appoint an advisory task force of stakeholders to assist
2 the department in meeting the requirements of subsections (a) and (f) of this Code section."

3 **SECTION 2.**

4 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.