

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2173

To assist pharmacies in facilitating enrollment of dual eligible populations
under the Medicare prescription drug benefit.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 21, 2005

Mrs. CLINTON (for herself and Mr. ROCKEFELLER) introduced the following
bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To assist pharmacies in facilitating enrollment of dual eligible
populations under the Medicare prescription drug benefit.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Medicare Dual Eligible
5 Identification and Enrollment Facilitation Act of 2005”.

1 **SEC. 2. FACILITATION OF IDENTIFICATION AND ENROLL-**
2 **MENT THROUGH PHARMACIES OF FULL-BEN-**
3 **EFIT DUAL ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS IN THE**
4 **MEDICARE PART D DRUG PROGRAM.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
6 Human Services shall provide for outreach and education
7 to pharmacies participating under part D of title XVIII
8 of the Social Security Act, particularly independent phar-
9 macies, on the following:

10 (1) The full-benefit dual eligible population.

11 (2) The transition from Medicaid prescription
12 drug coverage to coverage under such part for such
13 population.

14 (3) The processes established by the Secretary
15 to facilitate, at point of sale, identification of drug
16 plan assignment of such population or enrollment of
17 previously unidentified or new full-benefit dual eligi-
18 ble individuals into Medicare part D prescription
19 drug coverage, including how pharmacies can use
20 such processes to help ensure that such population
21 makes a successful transition to Medicare part D
22 without a lapse in prescription drug coverage.

23 (b) HOLDING PHARMACIES HARMLESS FOR CERTAIN
24 COSTS.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services
25 shall provide for such payments to pharmacies as may be
26 necessary to reimburse pharmacies fully for—

1 (1) any transaction fees associated with the
2 point-of-sale facilitated identification and enrollment
3 processes referred to in subsection (a)(3); and

4 (2) costs associated with any technology or soft-
5 ware upgrade necessary to make any identification
6 and enrollment inquiries as part of such processes.

○