

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2354

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to reduce the coverage gap in prescription drug coverage under part D of such title based on savings to the Medicare program resulting from the negotiation of prescription drug prices.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 2, 2006

Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. KERRY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. DORGAN, and Mr. KOHL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to reduce the coverage gap in prescription drug coverage under part D of such title based on savings to the Medicare program resulting from the negotiation of prescription drug prices.

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 Prescription
5 Drug Gap Reduction Act of 2006”.

1 **SEC. 2. REDUCING COVERAGE GAP.**

2 Section 1860D–2(b) of the Social Security Act (42
3 U.S.C. 1395w–102(b)) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “paragraph
5 (4)” and inserting “paragraph (4), subject to the in-
6 crease described in paragraph (7)”; and

7 (2) by adding at the end the following new
8 paragraph:

9 “(7) INCREASE OF INITIAL COVERAGE LIMIT
10 BASED ON MEDICARE SAVINGS DUE TO NEGOTIA-
11 TION OF DRUG PRICES.—For each year (beginning
12 with 2006), the Secretary shall increase the initial
13 coverage limit for the year specified in paragraph (3)
14 so that the aggregate amount of increased expendi-
15 tures from the Medicare Prescription Drug Account
16 as a result of such increase under this paragraph in
17 the year (as estimated by the Office of the Actuary
18 of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) is
19 equal to the aggregate amount of reduced expendi-
20 tures from such Account that the Office of the Actu-
21 ary estimates will result in the year as a result of
22 the application of the amendment made by section
23 3(a) of the Medicare Prescription Drug Gap Reduc-
24 tion Act of 2006.”.

1 **SEC. 3. NEGOTIATING FAIR PRICES FOR MEDICARE PRE-**
 2 **SCRIPTION DRUGS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1860D–11 of the Social
 4 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–111) is amended by strik-
 5 ing subsection (i) (relating to noninterference) and insert-
 6 ing the following:

7 “(i) AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE PRICES WITH MAN-
 8 UFACTURERS.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (4),
 10 in order to ensure that beneficiaries enrolled under
 11 prescription drug plans and MA–PD plans pay the
 12 lowest possible price, the Secretary shall have au-
 13 thority similar to that of other Federal entities that
 14 purchase prescription drugs in bulk to negotiate con-
 15 tracts with manufacturers of covered part D drugs,
 16 consistent with the requirements and in furtherance
 17 of the goals of providing quality care and containing
 18 costs under this part.

19 “(2) MANDATORY RESPONSIBILITIES.—The
 20 Secretary shall be required to—

21 “(A) negotiate contracts with manufactur-
 22 ers of covered part D drugs for each fallback
 23 prescription drug plan under subsection (g);
 24 and

25 “(B) participate in negotiation of contracts
 26 of any covered part D drug upon request of an

1 approved prescription drug plan or MA–PD
2 plan.

3 “(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
4 paragraph (2) shall be construed to limit the author-
5 ity of the Secretary under paragraph (1) to the man-
6 datory responsibilities under paragraph (2).

7 “(4) NO PARTICULAR FORMULARY OR PRICE
8 STRUCTURE.—In order to promote competition
9 under this part and in carrying out this part, the
10 Secretary may not require a particular formulary or
11 institute a price structure for the reimbursement of
12 covered part D drugs.”.

13 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
14 subsection (a) shall take effect as if included in the enact-
15 ment of section 101 of the Medicare Prescription Drug,
16 Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (Public Law
17 108–173).

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