

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Ways and Means to which was referred House Bill No.
3 577 entitled “An act relating to establishing the Vermont Prescription Drug
4 Discount Card Program” respectfully reports that it has considered the same
5 and recommends that the report of the Committee on Health Care be amended
6 as follows:

7 First: By striking out Sec. 1, 18 V.S.A. chapter 91, subchapter 7, in its
8 entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 1 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. chapter 91, subchapter 7 is added to read:

10 Subchapter 7. Vermont Prescription Drug Discount Card Program
11 § 4691. VERMONT PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISCOUNT CARD
12 PROGRAM

13 (a) There is established the Vermont Prescription Drug Discount Card
14 Program, administered by the Office of the State Treasurer, for the purpose of
15 pooling prescription drug purchasing power with other U.S. states and
16 territories and nongovernmental organizations. The Program shall be made
17 available to all Vermont residents.

18 (b)(1) To further the purposes of the Program, the State Treasurer may
19 cooperate with other U.S. states and territories, regional consortia, or
20 nongovernmental organizations, or a combination of these, to pool prescription
21 drug purchasing power to:

1 (A) reduce prescription drug costs;

2 (B) negotiate discounts with prescription drug manufacturers;

3 (C) centralize prescription drug purchasing; and

4 (D) establish volume discount contracting.

5 (2) As used in subdivision (1)(D) of this subsection, “volume discount
6 contracting” means the negotiated purchase of a large quantity of a prescription
7 drug at a decreased cost.

8 (c) The Treasurer may require that reasonable fees be charged to defray
9 Program costs. Notwithstanding any provision of 32 V.S.A. § 603 to the
10 contrary, the amount and method of collection of any fee shall be determined
11 by the Treasurer based on actual costs. Monies received by the Program
12 from appropriations, transfers, gifts, grants, donations, or any other
13 source, including any monies provided to the State through a cooperative
14 arrangement authorized by this section, shall be available to the Office of
15 the State Treasurer to defray costs associated with administering the
16 Program.

17 (d) The amount paid for a prescription drug after application of the
18 Vermont Prescription Drug Discount Card by an individual who is covered by
19 a health insurance plan, as defined in 8 V.S.A. § 4011, shall be attributed
20 toward the covered individual’s deductible and out-of-pocket responsibilities
21 in accordance with 8 V.S.A. § 4093 and section 3612 of this title.

1 (e) On or before January 15, 2028, and annually thereafter, the State
2 Treasurer shall submit a report to the House Committee on Health Care, the
3 Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, and the Governor detailing the
4 activities of the Program during the previous calendar year, including the
5 number of Vermont residents and pharmacies participating in the Program;
6 and the amount of savings on prescription drug costs achieved, and the balance
7 in the Vermont Prescription Drug Discount Card Program Fund.

8 § 4692. VERMONT PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISCOUNT CARD

9 PROGRAM FUND

10 (a) The Vermont Prescription Drug Discount Card Program Fund is
11 established as a special fund to be administered by the State Treasurer to
12 support the Vermont Prescription Drug Discount Card Program established in
13 this subchapter.

14 (b) The Fund shall consist of:

15 (1) any monies appropriated to the Fund by the General Assembly;

16 (2) any monies transferred to the Fund from the federal government,

17 other State agencies, or other government source;

18 (3) any monies from the payment of fees or other monies due to the

19 Program; and

20 (4) any gifts, grants, or donations made to the Fund and any gifts, grants,

21 donations, or investments received by the Treasurer for the Program.

1 ~~(c) The Treasurer shall credit to the Fund all interest earned on Fund~~
2 ~~balances and any other income derived from the deposit and investment of~~
3 ~~monies in the Fund.~~

4 ~~(d) Any unexpended and unencumbered monies in the Fund at the end of a~~
5 ~~fiscal year shall remain in the Fund.~~

6 Second: In Sec. 4, Vermont Prescription Drug Discount Card Program;
7 implementation report, by striking out “, any fees to be charged to
8 participants,”

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15 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

FOR THE COMMITTEE