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Governor DeSantis Signs Most Comprehensive Legislation in Florida History to Increase Accountability and Transparency for Prescription Drug Costs

JUPITER, Fla. — Today, Governor Ron DeSantis signed into law the most comprehensive reforms to Florida's prescription drug market in state history. The Prescription Drug Reform Act codifies [the Governor's actions from last year](#) to require accountability among pharmaceutical middlemen, empower consumers through increased choice among pharmacies, and create transparency in prescription drug price increases. More information is available [here](#):

INCREASING ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY IN PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES

The Prescription Drug Reform Act builds on Governor DeSantis' record of instituting transparency and accountability within the Pharmaceutical Industrial Complex

Breaking Down the PBM Game

What is a PBM? A Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) is a middleman that processes and pays prescription drug claims, negotiates rebates with drug manufacturers, and establishes networks of pharmacies. PBMs serve over 275 million Americans and over the past decade have merged into large vertically integrated companies which operate in secrecy. Three companies control 80% of the market.

The Prescription Drug Reform Act creates a robust regulatory framework for pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) which have been allowed to operate virtually unchecked:

- Bans clawbacks
- Prohibits mail order mandates
- Bans spread pricing
- Outlaws steering
- Stops data sharing without your consent
- Bans affiliate only networks

The bill requires PBMs to pass through 100% of all rebates received from Big Pharma for the sole purpose of reducing consumer costs.

Holding Big Pharma Accountable

Consumers deserve transparency to know how much their drug prices are being increased and they deserve to know why.

Big Pharma must now report:

- 15% Any increase of 15% or more of the wholesale acquisition cost during the preceding 12-month period
- OR
- 30% Any cumulative increase of 30% or more of the wholesale acquisition cost during the preceding 3 calendar years

This information will be shared publicly bringing **never before seen drug price transparency to Florida.**

“This legislation builds a foundation of transparency for pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) practices and drug prices in Florida, allowing consumers to make the best choices for their own health,” said **Governor Ron DeSantis**. “PBMs and Big Pharma have managed to escape the public eye and work in the shadows for far too long. I’m proud to sign a bill that takes the reins back from these health care monopolies while empowering consumers.”

“Prescription drugs can drastically impact a person’s quality of life, and for some Floridians, they are the difference between life and death. Patients deserve to know when drug price increases occur and where they can find their prescription drugs at an affordable price,” said **Senator Jason Brodeur**. “Under the leadership of Governor DeSantis, we are holding PBMs, which are acting on behalf of pharmacy benefits plans, to standards that protect the patients. This great bill will help patients in Florida receive their medications in a more accessible manner and at a more affordable cost.”

“I am extremely proud to see the Prescription Drug Reform Act pass the House,” said **Representative Linda Chaney**. “Patients have enough to deal with. They don’t need to fight their PBM and insurance company, too. It’s long past due that we put patients first, which is what this bill does. Today, we stood firm and clearly said ‘enough is enough’ to powerful PBMs, putting patients with cancer, diabetes, Parkinson’s disease, and other chronic illnesses above profit. It’s as simple as it sounds, and yet it will be truly life-changing for some of our sickest, most vulnerable Floridians and their families.”

“Governor DeSantis has consistently put Floridians first in the fight to lower drug costs and make health care more accessible,” said **Agency for Health Care Administration Secretary Jason Weida**. “I’m proud to stand with him as he signs the most comprehensive legislation in Florida history to rein in the Pharmaceutical Industrial Complex by holding Big Pharma and PBMs accountable, driving transparency never seen before in this industry in Florida.”

“PBMs and Big Pharma have profited off our seniors who take numerous medications, and I am so grateful for Governor DeSantis for once again standing up for our older residents,” said **Department of Elder Affairs Secretary Michelle Branham**. “This legislation is critical for seniors on a fixed income because it will keep out-of-pocket costs down and give them the freedom to choose the pharmacy of their choice, putting true patient care back at the forefront for our elders.”

Senate Bill 1550 institutes regulatory best practices for PBMs operating in Florida and provides the Office of Insurance Regulation (OIR) the authority to

examine and investigate PBMs and review possible violations of rules, as is done with all insurers in the state of Florida. Further, PBMs will also have to disclose all organizations affiliated with the applicant, including any affiliated pharmacies or companies within their corporate umbrella. The bill institutes a series of patient protections within the insurance code, to include prohibiting a PBM from forcing a patient to undergo “step therapy” or failing twice, i.e. the practice of forcing someone to restart a medication they know doesn’t work when they switch insurance companies.

Additionally, the bill reinforces the Governor’s commitment to transparency in the cost of prescription drugs by requiring pharmaceutical companies to disclose price increases for price hikes of 15% within a calendar year or 30% within a three-year period.

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