

SJR45 INTRODUCED



1 SJR45

2 U99QFDG-1

3 By Senators Butler, Stutts, Sessions, Beasley, Chambliss,

4 Jones, Shelnett, Roberts, Singleton, Bell, Melson, Livingston,

5 Allen, Elliott, Kelley, Hovey, Chesteen, Carnley, Kitchens,

6 Gudger, Waggoner, Albritton, Stewart, Figures, Barfoot

7 RFD:

8 First Read: 20-Mar-25



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SJR___ DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF THE LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY TO HIRE AN OUTSIDE CONSULTANT TO STUDY PHARMACY BENEFITS MANAGER PRACTICES.

WHEREAS, pharmacy benefits managers are intermediaries between health insurers and pharmacies which manage the prescription drug benefits component of health insurance plans, negotiate drug pricing, and make reimbursement to dispensing pharmacies in the plan network; and

WHEREAS, pharmacy benefits managers engage in multifaceted pricing, fees, and claims adjudication practices that have the effect of inadequately reimbursing pharmacies for the cost of dispensing drugs; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature has considered numerous pieces of legislation in the past few years regarding pharmacy benefits manager practices; and

WHEREAS, concerns have been raised that inadequate reimbursement practices by pharmacy benefits managers significantly contribute to the alarming rate of pharmacy closures in the State of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the closure of local independent pharmacies disproportionately impacts our rural communities in areas that are already underserved by health care providers, limiting access to essential medications for Alabamians; and



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29 WHEREAS, the practices of pharmacy benefits managers
30 and their interaction with the regulation of insurance is
31 complex, and the assistance of outside expertise would be of
32 value; now therefore,

33 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
34 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the Director of the
35 Legislative Services Agency is directed to hire a consultant
36 with national expertise and experience from outside of the
37 state to do a comprehensive study on pharmacy benefits
38 manager practices and their relationship with other actors
39 in the drug supply chain, including drug manufacturers, drug
40 wholesalers, and pharmacy services administration
41 organizations, and the resulting effects on prescription
42 drug costs, the practice of pharmacy, and consumer access to
43 medications. Upon approval of this resolution by the
44 Governor, the Director shall request proposals from
45 consultants and choose a qualified expert, who shall
46 undertake the study and report findings and recommendations
47 to the Director, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate,
48 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by no later
49 than December 1, 2025.