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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Feldman DATE TYPED 02/09/04 HB _____

SHORT TITLE Drug Pricing Disclosure Act SB 378

ANALYST Wilson

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY04	FY05	FY04	FY05		
			See Narrative		

Duplicates HB 551

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Board of Pharmacy (PB)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 378 creates the Drug Pricing Disclosure Act and requires pharmacies to disclose retail prices of prescription drugs, upon written or telephoned request or when requested in person.

Significant Issues

The Board of Pharmacy provided the following:

Not all pharmacies provide the same level of service as others. The price to the consumer is being compared solely on the medication.

It is entirely possible that consumers will read a prescription incorrectly to the pharmacist, pharmacy technician, or pharmacy intern and get quoted a price that may be totally wrong once the consumer presents the actual prescription at the pharmacy.

Currently, many pharmacies will provide pricing information pursuant to requests in person, by

telephone, and in writing. Pharmacies that do not provide this information, unless a request is made in person, do so to prevent misquotes.

Pharmacies may feel that they are being singled out of the health care profession since the requirement to provide prices is not mandated for all health care providers

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The Board of Pharmacy will have to implement rules to enforce this statute and be placed in a position to mediate disputes over price quotes, and can accomplish this with existing resources.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The Board of Pharmacy will be required to develop rules to guide inspectors in the enforcement of the provisions of this bill. The Board believes they are likely to receive a substantial number of complaints from consumers regarding pricing. This is an area in which the Board has never been involved.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

There are several practitioners and clinics in the state that sell prescription medications to their patients. Will this statute apply to them as well?

DW/njw:dm