

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill expands eligibility for the prescription drug program by raising the income limit and eliminating the age limit, establishes monthly deductibles based on a sliding scale, and provides program sunset and reinstatement dates that are contingent on a federal maintenance of effort requirement for a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Section

- 1 **Eligibility.** Amends § 256.955, subd. 2a. Expands eligibility for the prescription drug program by:
eliminating the requirement that all enrollees be age 65 or older
increasing the program income limit from 120 percent to 150 percent of the federal poverty guidelines for enrollees of all ages
The section also makes corresponding changes in references to eligibility groups for which MA pays certain Medicare costs, and adds a new clause (2) which will maintain eligibility for enrollees when federal qualifying individual status ends.
- 2 **Cost sharing.** Amends § 256.955, subd. 7. Establishes monthly deductibles based on a sliding scale, for enrollees with incomes between 120 and 150 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.
- 3 **Program sunset.** Amends § 256.955, by adding subd. 10. Sunsets the prescription drug program the day before the effective date of any federal maintenance of effort requirement applied to states as a result of federal law providing a prescription drug benefit for all or any group of Medicare beneficiaries.
- 4 **Prescription drug program.** Adds § 256.956. Places the current prescription drug program, as modified by this bill, into statute. This section has a contingent effective date related to any federal maintenance of effort requirement for a Medicare prescription drug benefit.
- 5 **Appropriation.** Appropriates money to the commissioner of human services for sections 1 and

2.

6 **Repealer.** Repeals section 256.955, subd. 2b. (This subdivision, which expands eligibility effective July 1, 2002 to include Medicare enrollees under age 65 with incomes not exceeding 100 percent of poverty, is no longer necessary since section 1 makes these individuals eligible July 1, 2001 at the 150 percent level.)

7 **Effective date.** (a) Provides a July 1, 2001 effective date for sections 1 and 2.
(b) Provides that section 4 is effective the day after the effective date of any federal maintenance of effort requirement related to a Medicare prescription drug benefit.