

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Geographic Access to Pharmacies

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Overview

This bill requires HMOs to comply with pharmacy access standards established in rule by the Secretary of Health and Human Services and makes related changes.

Section

- 1 Pharmacy services.** Amends § 62D.124, by adding subd. 1a. Requires HMOs to comply with the standards for convenient access to in-network pharmacies established in rule by the Secretary of Health and Human Services. (The 2003 Medicare prescription drug bill requires the secretary to establish rules for access that are no less favorable to enrollees than the standards that apply to the TRICARE program of the Department of Defense.)
Effective date. Provides an effective date of August 1, 2004 or 30 days after the secretary adopts rules, whichever is later.
- 2 Other health services.** Amends § 62D.124, subd. 2. Makes a conforming change.
- 3 Exception.** Amends § 62D.124, subd. 3. Allows the commissioner of health to grant an exception to the requirement for pharmacy access, if the HMO can demonstrate with specific data that the requirement is not feasible in a particular service area or part of a service area.