

**Second Regular Session
Sixty-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

ENGROSSED

LLS NO. R02-0945.01 Jennifer Thomsen

SJR02-023

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 02-023

101 **CONCERNING THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF AN INTERSTATE COMPACT FOR**
102 **THE PURCHASE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.**

1 WHEREAS, The soaring cost of prescription drugs is an issue of
2 great concern due to the strain it is placing on the Colorado state budget
3 in employee health care and medicaid pharmacy expenditures; and

4 WHEREAS, Based on the state's claims experience, the majority
5 of the health plans the state offers to employees are increasing the
6 prescription drug portion of the state's healthcare premiums by 45% to
7 90%; and

8 WHEREAS, Colorado medicaid pharmacy expenditures have
9 increased over 170% in the past 6 years; and

10 WHEREAS, Although the medicaid caseload has only increased
11 by 16.5% over this same 6-year period, per-client medicaid pharmacy
12 expenditures have increased by approximately 91%; and

13 WHEREAS, Prescription drug costs pose a dilemma with direct
14 impact on the health and well-being of every citizen of the state; and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.

Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.

Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

SENATE
Final Reading
May 8, 2002

1 WHEREAS, Other states are aggressively pursuing cost-reduction
2 options that may offer examples for Colorado; and

3 WHEREAS, While Colorado has shown an annual increase in
4 medicaid pharmacy expenditures of approximately 13%, some states that
5 have recently implemented cost-reduction strategies have already shown
6 a decrease in their state's annual pharmaceutical costs; and

7 WHEREAS, Among the state responses to this concern has been
8 the formation of the Northeast Legislative Association on Prescription
9 Drug Prices, a coalition of the states of Connecticut, Maine,
10 Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island,
11 and Vermont, with the purpose of making prescription drugs more
12 affordable and accessible to the people of their states through the
13 possibility of developing a compact to purchase prescription drugs; and

14 WHEREAS, Many Western states would benefit from
15 participation in a similar coalition, creation of which would represent a
16 meaningful step in addressing increases in prescription drug costs for our
17 citizens; now, therefore,

18 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-third General Assembly
19 of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

20 That we, the members of the Sixty-third General Assembly, urge
21 the executive branch of the State of Colorado, particularly the Governor
22 and the Executive Director of the Department of Health Care Policy and
23 Financing, to pursue the opportunity to develop a compact with other
24 Western states to facilitate purchases of prescription drugs by the most
25 economic method.

26 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this resolution be sent to
27 Governor Bill Owens and Karen Reinertson, Executive Director of the
28 Department of Health Care Policy and Financing.