HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ANALYSIS

 BILL #:
 H0001
 RELATING TO:
 Sunshine for Seniors

 SPONSOR(S):
 Appropriations and Green
 IDEN./SIM. BILLS:
 IDEN./SIM. BILLS:

 REFERENCE
 ACTION
 ANALYST

(1) Health Appropriations	 Speir	Massengale
(2) Appropriations	 Speir	Hansen
(3)	 	
(4)	 	
(5)		
()		

STAFF DIRECTOR

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

THIS DOCUMENT IS NOT INTENDED TO BE USED FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUING STATUTES, OR TO BE CONSTRUED AS AFFECTING, DEFINING, LIMITING, CONTROLLING, SPECIFYING, CLARIFYING, OR MODIFYING ANY LEGISLATION OR STATUTE.

This bill creates the Sunshine for Seniors Program in the Department of Elderly Affairs. Specifically, the bill requires the Department of Elderly Affairs to

- Promote the availability of manufacturers' pharmaceutical assistance programs to eligible individuals with various outreach initiatives.
- Develop a uniform application.
- Train volunteers to help eligible individuals fill out applications for the manufacturers' pharmaceutical assistance programs.
- Train volunteers to determine if applicants are eligible for other state programs.
- Report to the Legislature regarding the implementation and operation of the Sunshine for Seniors Program.

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. DOES THE BILL:

 Reduce government? 	Yes[x] No[x]	N/A[]
2. Lower taxes?	Yes[] No[]	N/A[x]
3. Expand individual freedom?	Yes[] No[]	N/A[x]
4. Increase personal responsibility?	Yes[x] No[]	N/A[]
5. Empower families?	Yes[x] No[]	N/A[]

For any principle that received a "no" above, please explain:

The bill expands government by creating a new program. On the other hand, impact on the government may be reduced if more individuals receive pharmaceutical assistance through private programs, thereby reducing the numbers who become eligible for state assistance.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

The pharmaceutical industry has created pharmaceutical assistance programs (PAPs) that provide low income individuals with prescription drugs for free or at reduced prices. In 2001, more than 3.5 million patients received prescription medicines through PAPs, and PAPs provided almost 10 million prescriptions, with a wholesale value of about \$1.5 billion, to individuals nationwide.

Despite the success of PAPs, some seniors are unaware that they exist. Others know PAPs exist, but need help filling out the applications.

The bill establishes the Sunshine for Seniors Program, which will help seniors obtain prescription drugs from PAPs. Individuals who lack adequate pharmaceutical insurance coverage and are age 60 or older will be eligible for assistance.

The bill directs the Department of Elderly Affairs (DOEA), with assistance from the Agency for Health Care Administration, to implement the Sunshine for Seniors Program. To ensure Floridians know about the Sunshine for Seniors program, DOEA is required to promote the program statewide. DOEA will use its network of volunteers to help seniors obtain pharmaceutical assistance. The volunteers will determine if the seniors qualify for PAPs, and if they do, the volunteers will assist the seniors in filling out the necessary applications.

Currently, there are as many applications as there are PAPs. DOEA is required to develop a single application that can be used for all PAPs.

DOEA is authorized to use this program to build partnerships with communities to help seniors receive other needed charitable health services.

DOEA will report annually to the Legislature on the status of the Sunshine for Seniors Program.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Creates s. 430.83, F.S., which establishes the Sunshine for Seniors Program that assists low income seniors with obtaining prescription drugs from manufacturers' pharmaceutical assistance programs.

Section 2. Provides that this act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

- A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:
 - 1. Revenues:

N/A

2. <u>Expenditures:</u> <u>FY 2003-04</u>

Recurring Expenditures	
Other Personal Services	\$ 38,754
Expenses	\$ 27,906
Contracted Services	\$ <u>160,000</u>
General Revenue Fund	\$226,660

- B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:
 - 1. Revenues:

None

2. Expenditures:

None

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

The Sunshine for Seniors Program will economically impact the pharmaceutical manufacturers since they will be making charitable contributions of their prescription drugs. However, at this time we have no estimates as to how much of an impact this will have on the pharmaceutical manufacturers.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None

III. COMMENTS

- A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:
 - a. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision

This bill does not require municipalities or counties to spend money.

2. Other

None

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. DOES THE BILL:

1. Reduce government?	Yes[]	No[]	N/A[]
2. Lower taxes?	Yes[]	No[]	N/A[]
Expand individual freedom?	Yes[]	No[]	N/A[]
Increase personal responsibility?	Yes[]	No[]	N/A[]
5. Empower families?	Yes[]	No[]	N/A[]

For any principle that received a "no" above, please explain:

- B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:
- C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

- E. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:
 - 3. Revenues:
 - 4. Expenditures:
- F. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:
 - 3. Revenues:
 - 4. Expenditures:
- G. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:
- H. FISCAL COMMENTS:

III. COMMENTS

- D. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:
 - 1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision
 - 2. Other
- E. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:
- F. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES