



2005 SENATE BILL 235

June 8, 2005 – Introduced by Senators HANSEN, ERPENBACH, BRESKE, CARPENTER, COGGS, LASSA, TAYLOR and WIRCH, cosponsored by Representatives SHILLING, KRUSICK, BENEDICT, BERCEAU, BLACK, BOYLE, FIELDS, GRIGSBY, GRONEMUS, LEHMAN, MOLEPSKE, NELSON, POCAN, RICHARDS, SEIDEL, SHERIDAN, SINICKI, STASKUNAS, TRAVIS, TURNER and VRUWINK. Referred to Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long Term Care.

1 **AN ACT to create** 49.688 (4r) of the statutes; **relating to:** treating property taxes
2 as a deduction to annual household income for purposes of determining
3 eligibility and deductible amounts under the prescription drug assistance
4 program for the elderly.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, elderly persons may purchase prescription drugs at reduced amounts under a program commonly known as “Senior Care.” A person is eligible for Senior Care if he or she is a state resident, is at least 65 years of age, is not a medical assistance (MA) recipient or does not receive prescription drug coverage as an MA recipient, and his or her annual household income, as determined by the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS), does not exceed 240 percent of the federal poverty line. A person must pay an annual \$30 fee to enroll in Senior Care. An enrollee pays the “program payment rate” for prescription drugs (105 percent of the MA prescription drug payment rate plus a dispensing fee) until the enrollee has met an annual deductible, if applicable, and thereafter pays only a copayment of \$5 for generic prescription drugs and a copayment of \$15 for nongeneric prescription drugs. A person whose annual household income is 160 percent or less of the federal poverty line pays no deductible; if the person’s annual household income is more than 160 percent but not more than 200 percent of the federal poverty line, the deductible is \$500; and if the person’s annual household income exceeds 200 percent of the federal poverty line, the deductible is \$850. Other persons who meet all of the requirements except the income limitation are also eligible to purchase

