

Bill of the Week

Accessible Prescription Labels (HF 2585)

Requires the board of pharmacy to establish rules so lowans who are blind, have low vision, or cannot read print can get accessible information on prescription drug labels, bag tags, and medicine guides from pharmacies at no cost.

✓ Key Points and Impacts

- This bill creates accessible prescription drug labels for those who are blind, have low vision, or not able to read printed materials. An accessible label could be a screen reader, talking device, QR code or smartphone app that reads the prescription information, or website.
- There would be no additional cost to people with qualifying disabilities for these accessible drug labels, bag tags, and medicine guides.
- Health carriers are required to pay a larger dispensing fee to pay back pharmacies that have been providing accessibility measures.
- Allows people who cannot read regular print to take medication safely and independently, lowers medication errors, and gives the same timely access to prescription information as everyone else.
- Requires the Iowa Board of Pharmacy to provide notice that accessible measures are available, including in audio format.
- The bill makes exceptions for institutional pharmacies (pharmacies that are in a hospital, nursing home, or long-term care facility), some special programs, and pharmacies in a jail or prison.

🔊 Facts at a Glance

- The Iowa Board of Pharmacy is required to make rules by January 1, 2027. The rules will guarantee free and accessible prescription drug labels, bag tags, and medicine guides at pharmacies to people who are blind, have low vision, or are unable to read print materials.
- The rules must be developed with input from pharmacists and individuals who will be using these materials.
- An updated list of pharmacies that have accessible materials must be made available to the public each year by April 1.
- The Board of Pharmacy must submit a report to the Governor and Legislature by January 1, 2028. This report is to look at the success of the program and suggest ways to improve access.
- Ten states have already passed similar laws (CA, CO, FL, HI, MN, NV, OH, PA, TN, WA).
- You can read more about this at: <https://www.staysaferx.org>.

About the Sponsor



Rep. Brett Barker is from Nevada. He represents Story County and parts of Marshall County. He serves on the Commerce, Economic Growth/Technology, Health and Human Services, and Natural Resources Committees.

