

**Ohio's Best Rx (OBRx)  
Summary of 2006 Statute Amendments**

House Bill 468 passed in the Ohio House of Representatives on December 12, 2006 by a vote of 96 to 1. It then passed in the Ohio Senate on December 14, 2006 by a vote of 29 to 2. House Bill 468 was signed by now-former Governor Taft on January 4, 2007. The effective date of the bill is 90 days from Governor Taft's signature date, or April 4, 2007.

A. Changes were made in order to remove barriers to participation. These include:

- Allow online and telephone submission of applications.
- Increase the eligibility limit of the program from 250% to 300% of the Federal Poverty Level.
- Allow otherwise eligible applicants with workers compensation coverage to participate.
- Waive the four month waiting period for laid-off employees.
- Allow the program administrator to verify eligibility by phone if the participant does not present the card to the pharmacist at the time of purchase.

B. Changes were made to provisions concerning the state employee and retiree plans. These changes were made in order to:

- Remove the obligation of state employee and retiree health plans to provide rebate information to the OBRx program.
- Provide for the obtaining of rebate information from pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) that have a large volume of state business. This rebate information is needed to validate that the rebates offered under OBRx are comparable to those in the market.

C. Changes were made to provisions concerning the mail order system in order to:

- Clarify that the program administrator dispenses drugs through the mail order program.
- Clarify that no professional fee is added to the cost of drugs dispensed through the mail order program.
- Clarify that retail pharmacies submit claims to the department or to the program administrator.

D. The provision was removed that allowed ODJFS to request that the state employee and retiree plans require prior authorization of drugs for which the plans receive rebates but OBRx does not.

E. Several changes were made in order to provide future flexibility for funding without the need for additional statute changes:

- Allow for the possibility of alternatives to retaining a portion of the rebate through appropriations, donations, administrative payments, etc.
- Change "rebate agreement" and "rebate payment" to "manufacturer agreement" and "manufacturer payment" in multiple provisions.

F. Changes were made to allow for the transition of Golden Buckeye Rx program participants to OBRx:

- OBRx and Golden Buckeye Rx will be merged.
- The combined program will be administered by the Ohio Department of Aging.
- The OBRx program and its staff will be moved to the Ohio Department of Aging prior to the July 1, 2007 effective date of the combined program.