

April 15, 1999

H 1277. PHARMACY CHOICE/COMPETITION (=S 937). *TO PROMOTE COMPETITION, CHOICE, AND AVAILABILITY IN THE PURCHASE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND PHARMACY SERVICES.* Identical to S 937, introduced 4/14/99.

Intro. by Cole.

Ref. to Insurance

GS 58

April 29, 1999

H 1277. PHARMACY CHOICE/COMPETITION. Intro. 4/15/99. House committee substitute adds appropriation to 1st edition. Changes title to "AN ACT TO PROMOTE COMPETITION, CHOICE, AND AVAILABILITY IN THE PURCHASE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND PHARMACY SERVICES, AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE TO MONITOR THE EFFECTS OF THIS ACT ON COVERED INDIVIDUALS." Appropriates from the General Fund to the Department of Insurance \$50,000 for 1999-2000 as new title indicates.

July 7, 1999

H 1277. PHARMACY CHOICE/COMPETITION. Intro. 4/15/99. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 2nd edition. Amends GS 58-51-36(b) to add to exemptions the following: Medicaid and Medicare prescription drugs and pharmacy services benefits, and Teachers' and State Employees Comprehensive Medical Plan. Amends GS 58-51-36(l) to provide that in redeeming prescription card benefits, a pharmacy may establish its own price or charge for the prescription, in an account not to exceed the published average wholesale price plus 5%, unless the pharmacy has agreed otherwise by terms of a pharmacy provider contract. Adds GS 58-51-36(k) through (m) to provide that if price or charge for prescription and pharmacy services established by the pharmacy is greater than the sum of the co-payment and the prescription card benefit, the person redeeming the prescription card benefit shall be responsible for paying the pharmacy the difference in cost, with notice requirements stated for pharmacy and provisions for reimbursement by insurer or third-party administrator. Act sunsets Sept. 30, 2003.