

## 2005 SESSION

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### SENATE BILL NO. 1246

Offered January 17, 2005

A BILL relating to purchasing prescription drugs from Canadian businesses.

Patrons—Reynolds; Delegate: Armstrong

Referred to Committee on Education and Health

Whereas, many older and disabled Americans must make purchase choices relating to essential needs, such as food and medicine, on a daily basis; and

Whereas, an estimated one million to two million Americans buy drugs in Canada, where they are up to 50 percent cheaper because of price controls; and

Whereas, payment for prescription drugs is the fastest growing segment of health care expenditures in the nation and in the Commonwealth; and

Whereas, Illinois, Michigan, Iowa, and Minnesota have joined the I-SaveRx program to facilitate the purchase of prescription drugs from Canada as well as from Ireland and the United Kingdom; and

Whereas, Congress has enacted a provision instructing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to implement a waiver process whereby prescription drugs may be purchased from other countries; now, therefore,

#### **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. § 1. Prescription drug purchasing option for citizens of the Commonwealth.**

*In the interest of providing the citizens of the Commonwealth a mechanism for containing pharmacy costs, the Governor shall, immediately upon the issuance of a waiver template or process by the federal Secretary of Health and Human Services, apply for such waiver to establish a mechanism for purchasing reduced-cost prescription drugs from Canada and other countries. The Governor shall, in the exercise of his substantial powers under state law, take all steps necessary for the Commonwealth to join in participating with the states of Illinois, Michigan, Iowa, and Minnesota in the I-SaveRx program, a program for purchasing lower-cost drugs from Canada and other countries, that has already developed numerous measures to ensure the quality and safety of the imported drugs. The Governor may, when appropriate, sign a memorandum of understanding for Virginia to participate in the I-SaveRx program.*

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