

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Ohio Department of Aging will conduct a hearing in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code to obtain comment concerning the Department's proposed amendment, rescission and adoption of administrative rules related to the Golden Buckeye Card Program. These rules are being proposed for amendment, rescission and/or adoption as part of a larger effort by the Department to distinguish in Chapter 173-6 of the Administrative Code between "rebates" and "discounts" in order to provide clarity to drug manufacturers who seek to integrate their means-tested discount programs with the Golden Buckeye Prescription Drug program; to require any administrator participating in the Golden Buckeye Program to use one hundred percent of any drug discounts it receives to reduce the prescription purchase costs of cardholders; to delete unnecessary language and delete or replace the word "discount" wherever it is used inconsistent with the definition of "drug discount" in proposed new rule 173-6-02 of the Administrative Code.

Rule 173-6-01 (To be Amended) provides an introduction to the rules appearing in Chapter 173-6 of the Administrative Code;

173-6-02 (To be Rescinded) defines numerous terms used throughout Chapter 173-6 of the Administrative Code.

173-6-02 (To be Adopted) defines numerous terms used throughout Chapter 173-6 of the Administrative Code. (In accordance with requirements established by the Legislative Service Commission, because more than fifty percent of existing rule 173-6-02 was originally proposed for amendment, the existing rule is instead being proposed for rescission so that it can be amended and adopted as a new rule.)

173-6-07 (To be Amended) reflects the Department of Aging's statutory authority to contract with one or more entities to administer prescription drug programs for Golden Buckeye Program cardholders; describes how contracts will be awarded by the Department and the necessary content of all proposals submitted by interested entities; authorizes the Department to force administrators to modify the conduct of their programs for certain stated reasons; establishes a maximum term for any contracts; authorizes termination of contracts under certain circumstances; and makes approval of all contracts subject to Controlling Board approval.

173-6-08 (To be Amended) describes how administrators are to administer prescription drug programs for Golden Buckeye Program cardholders.

The hearing to which this notice applies will be conducted on Tuesday, June 24, at 10:00 a.m. in Conference Room A of the Department's offices at 50 W. Broad St., 9th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215. The hearing will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. and will continue until all parties in attendance at that time have had an opportunity to provide comment. Written comments to the proposed rules may be mailed or faxed to the Department (FAX: 614-466-5741) on or before the date of the hearing. All requests for copies of the proposed rule, as well as any written comments, should be directed to the attention of Mike Laubert.