

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 3015

**DATE:** March 3, 2006

**Version:** First engrossment

**Authors:** Bradley and others

**Subject:** Dual Eligibles and the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit

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### Overview

This bill provides funding to the Commissioner of Human Services to cover pharmacy and pharmacy-related cost-sharing costs for dual eligibles for the period January 1, 2006, to March 8, 2006, and the period March 9, 2006, to April 15, 2006, under the processes in the Governor's executive order 06-01. Dual eligibles are individuals who are eligible for both Medicare and Medical Assistance (MA) benefits. Since January 1, 2006, prescription drug coverage for dual eligibles has been the responsibility of Medicare, rather than MA. The executive order allowed the state, through the Department of Human Services, to become the payer of last resort for dual eligibles for whom access to prescription drug coverage under the Medicare prescription drug benefit had been delayed.

### Section

**1 Appropriation; payer of last resort payments for certain dual eligible pharmacy costs.** Appropriates money from the general fund to the commissioner of human services to cover certain pharmacy and pharmacy-related cost-sharing costs for dual eligibles under the processes established in the Governor's executive order 06-01.

- \$4,000,000 is made available to cover costs incurred from January 1, 2006, to March 8, 2006.
- \$570,000 is made available to cover costs incurred from March 9, 2006, to April 15,

**Section**

2006.

Requires the commissioner to seek reimbursement for any expenditures and requires any reimbursement received to be credited to the general fund.

**Effective date.** Provides a retroactive effective date of January 1, 2006.