

Texas Southern University

Digital Scholarship @ Texas Southern University

Mickey Leland Archive Documents

Mickey Leland Archives

4-11-1973

Drug Pricing proposal withdrawn in House

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalscholarship.tsu.edu/mla_documents

Recommended Citation

"Drug Pricing proposal withdrawn in House" (1973). *Mickey Leland Archive Documents*. 3.
https://digitalscholarship.tsu.edu/mla_documents/3

This Clipping is brought to you for free and open access by the Mickey Leland Archives at Digital Scholarship @ Texas Southern University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Mickey Leland Archive Documents by an authorized administrator of Digital Scholarship @ Texas Southern University. For more information, please contact haiying.li@tsu.edu.

Drug pricing proposal withdrawn in House

Post State Capital Bureau

AUSTIN — Two so-called "people's bills" by liberal Houston lawmakers bit the dust in the Texas House Monday.

Rep. Mickey Leland, D-Houston, said he made a "moral judgment" to pull down his bill requiring public posting of pharmaceutical drug prices after a test vote showed House support for a weaker substitute.

"The pharmacists obviously don't care anything about the people," he said bitterly, charging that "political pressure" from the Texas Pharmaceutical Association had corralled the votes to water down his bill.

The measure would have required every pharmacy to post its price for the 100 most commonly prescribed drugs, as determined by the State Pharmacy Board.

By encouraging price competition, the plan would "save the people of the state thousands and thousands of dollars each year," said Leland.

Drug prices are now prohibitive, he claimed.

Medication sold as low as 88 cents in one pharmacy often costs as much as \$8 in another, he said.

The elderly and the minorities suffer the most serious price discrimination, he said.

Leland, a former instruc-

tor of clinical pharmacy at Texas Southern University, was defeated 49-94 on a motion to kill a substitute bill by Rep. Tim Von Dohlen, D-Goliad, a pharmacist.

Von Dohlen's amendment would require that the 100 drug prices be listed in a booklet rather than on a poster.

A poster could not give full information on the "professional services and non-professional convenience services" — such as home drug delivery — that influence the prices of drugs, Von Dohlen said.

Moments later, conservatives succeeded in killing, 76-64, a bill by Rep. Craig Washington, D-Houston, to provide state-paid attorneys for the youthful inmates of Texas reform schools.

The availability of attorneys would create "anarchy" in Texas Youth Council reform schools as inmates used legal threats as a club over guards and administrative authorities, said Rep. Frank Gaston, R-Dallas.

If a guard beats up a child, who should represent him?" Washington responded to a similar complaint from another lawmaker.

The state acts in place of the parents of delinquent children and should protect their legal rights, Washington said.

The state already plans ap-

propriations for 11 attorneys for adult prisoners, Washington claimed.

Harris County lawmaker generally followed party lines on the two measures. Most Democrats voted with the sponsors and most Republicans voted against them.

In other action Tuesday, the House gave tentative approval to bills that would:

- Require monthly payments of sales and use taxes by businesses that collect more than \$750 per month.

- Reduce "excessive" state costs for administering sales and use taxes and require monthly payments to cities for their share of the taxes.

- Allow free automobile registration for vehicles used exclusively to transport disabled veterans.

The House also voted final passage and sent to the Senate bills that would:

- Allow game wardens to ticket rather than arrest game law offenders.

- Prohibit hunting from all motor vehicles, not just autos.

- Require out-of-state mail-order loan companies to obtain a license from the consumer credit commissioner.