Abolition of NHS Prescription Charges (Scotland) Bill

[AS INTRODUCED]

An Act of the Scottish Parliament to abolish National Health Service prescription charges for the provision of drugs, medicines and appliances or pharmaceutical services in respect of Scottish prescriptions; and for connected purposes.

1 Abolition of prescription charges

(1) In the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978 (c.29) (“the 1978 Act”)—

(a) in section 69 (charges for drugs, medicines or appliances or pharmaceutical services) insert—

“(1A) Regulations under subsection (1) may not provide for charges to be made in respect of a Scottish prescription.

(1B) In this section “Scottish prescription” means an order made in Scotland for any drug, medicine, appliance or pharmaceutical service referred to in subsection (1),”;

(b) in section 108(1) (interpretation) at the appropriate place insert—

““Scottish prescription” has the meaning indicated in section 69;”.

(2) Regulations made under section 69 of the 1978 Act are revoked to the extent that they provide for charges to be made for a Scottish prescription.

2 Refund of pre-payment certificates

(1) A person who has purchased a certificate prior to the commencement of this Act is entitled to a refund.

(2) The refund is the number of complete months of validity of the certificate after the date of commencement of this Act multiplied by the monthly cost of the certificate.

(3) In this section—

“certificate” means a pre-payment certificate purchased under regulation 8 of the National Health Service (Charges for Drugs and Appliances) (Scotland) Regulations 2001 (S.S.I. 2001/430), and
“monthly cost” means the cost of the certificate divided by the number of months of pre-payment.

3  Short title and commencement

(1) This Act may be cited as the Abolition of NHS Prescription Charges (Scotland) Act 2005.

(2) This Act shall come into force on the day after the date of Royal Assent.
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Introduced by: Colin Fox
On: 19 January 2005
Bill type: Member’s Bill