



---

---

# Senate Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee

Senator Bob Mensch

Chairman

Matthew D. Azeles, *Executive Director*

---

Room 459 Capitol Building, Senate Box 203024, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120-3024 • 717-787-3110 • Fax: 717-787-8004

---

## Summary of Senate Bill 1224, P.N. 1950

Prime Sponsor: Vance

### A. Synopsis

This bill provides a technical fix to an earlier law designed to allow eligible veterans in nursing homes to access their medication through the Veterans Administration (VA), which can usually provide medications at a far lower cost to veterans.

### B. Bill Summary

Nursing home regulations require prescriptions to be packaged in single-unit doses, but VA's do not package prescriptions in that way. The bill would allow veterans in nursing homes to save money and utilize existing VA benefits. The drugs are mailed to the nursing home in the patient's name and placed in a secure lockbox.

Veterans being cared for in one of the state's six veterans' homes are not affected by this legislation.

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the Department of Public Welfare, and the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association support the bill.

Bill shall take effect in 60 days.

### C. Current Law

Act 114 of 2008 created a free-standing act (The Long-Term Care Patient Access to Pharmaceuticals Act) which allowed pharmacists at a long-term care facility to receive lower-cost drugs directly from the VA in the patient's name. The pharmacist was permitted to re-package, re-label, and dispense the drug. The bill amends Title 51 by creating a new chapter that adds the language of the 2008 law.