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## Sponsor Statement

HB226: Pharmacies/Pharmacists/Benefit Managers

House Bill No. 226 aims to address critical issues related to the Board of Pharmacy, insurance, pharmacies, pharmacists, and pharmacy benefits managers in the state of Alaska. This comprehensive legislation is designed to ensure patient choice of pharmacy, improve transparency and accountability in pharmacy benefit management, and enhance the standards for pharmaceutical care across the state.

HB226 emphasizes the powers of the Board of Pharmacy, including provisions for licensing, inspection, and regulation of pharmacies, pharmacists, and other entities involved in the distribution of drugs. It also seeks to establish safeguards for patient access to pharmacy services and clinician-administered drugs, while preventing unfair trade practices by insurers and pharmacy benefits managers.

This legislation introduces provisions for the reimbursement of pharmacy services, addressing issues related to national average drug acquisition cost and dispensing fees, with the goal of ensuring fair compensation for pharmacies and pharmacists.

House Bill No. 226 is a critical step forward in promoting the best interests of patients, pharmacies, and pharmacists in Alaska. By enacting this legislation, we strive to create an environment that fosters quality pharmaceutical care, empowers patient choice, and enhances the overall integrity of pharmacy services in our state.

This legislation is scheduled to take effect on July 1, 2025, and represents a collaborative effort to modernize and improve the pharmaceutical landscape in Alaska.