

VETO MESSAGE - No. 261

TO THE SENATE:

I am returning herewith, without my approval, the following bill:

Senate Bill Number 3291, entitled:

"AN ACT to amend the elder law, in relation to creating and distributing a drug guide for senior consumers"

NOT APPROVED

This bill would require the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA), in conjunction with the State Board of Pharmacy, and in consultation with the New York State Department of Health, to prepare, publish and update a Senior Drug Guide in order to explain the use, function, and common drug interactions of drugs commonly used by persons over the age of sixty-two. This guide would also be required to include the effects of combining such medications with alcohol consumption.

While the intent of this bill is laudable, developing, providing, and maintaining up to date information to the public regarding the composition of medications and their potential side effects, including interactions that could occur when medications are mixed with other types of drugs such as alcohol, is beyond NYSOFA's scope of practice and expertise. Providing information and assistance about medications, medication safety, medication side effects and drug interactions falls within the realm of the practice of licensed pharmacy and medical professionals. For these reasons I am constrained to disapprove this bill.

The bill is disapproved.

(signed) ANDREW M. CUOMO
