Legislation Details (With Text)

File #:	Res 0823-2007	**Version:**	A	**Name:**	Make certain persons who are eligible for or receiving social security disability insurance (SSDI) benefits eligible for Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) program. (S.2644 and A.5178)
Type:	Resolution			**Status:**	Adopted
				In control:	Committee on Mental Health, Developmental Disability, Alcoholism, Substance Abuse and Disability Services
On agenda:	4/23/2007				
Enactment date:				**Enactment #:**	

Title: Resolution calling upon the New York State Legislature to adopt S. 2644 and A. 5178, legislation which would make certain persons who are eligible for or receiving social security disability insurance (SSDI) benefits eligible for the Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) program.

Sponsors: G. Oliver Koppell, Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr., Gale A. Brewer, Leroy G. Comrie, Jr., Inez E. Dickens, Simcha Felder, Lewis A. Fidler, Helen D. Foster, Vincent J. Gentile, Sara M. Gonzalez, Letitia James, John C. Liu, Michael C. Nelson, Domenic M. Recchia, Jr., James Sanders, Jr., Larry B. Seabrook, David I. Weprin, Thomas White, Jr., Alan J. Gerson, Robert Jackson, James F. Gennaro, Tony Avella, Hiram Monserrate, Helen Sears, Betsy Gotbaum

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Attachments: 1. Res. No. 823 - 4/23/07, 2. Committee Report 10/24/07, 3. Hearing Testimony 10/24/07, 4. Press Release, 5. Committee Report 10/29/07, 6. Hearing Transcript 10/29/07, 7. Hearing Transcript - Stated Meeting 10/29/07

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
4/23/2007	*	City Council	Introduced by Council	
4/23/2007	*	City Council	Referred to Comm by Council	
10/24/2007	*	Committee on Mental Health, Developmental Disability, Alcoholism, Substance Abuse and Disability Services	Hearing Held by Committee	
10/24/2007	*	Committee on Mental Health, Developmental Disability, Alcoholism, Substance Abuse and Disability Services	Amendment Proposed by Comm	
10/24/2007	*	Committee on Mental Health, Developmental Disability, Alcoholism, Substance Abuse and Disability Services	Laid Over by Committee	
10/29/2007	*	Committee on Mental Health, Developmental Disability, Alcoholism, Substance Abuse and Disability Services	Hearing Held by Committee	
10/29/2007	*	Committee on Mental Health, Developmental Disability, Alcoholism, Substance Abuse and Disability Services	Amendment Proposed by Comm	
10/29/2007	*	Committee on Mental Health,	Amended by Committee	

		Developmental Disability, Alcoholism, Substance Abuse and Disability Services		
10/29/2007	A	Committee on Mental Health, Developmental Disability, Alcoholism, Substance Abuse and Disability Services	Approved by Committee	Pass
10/29/2007	*	City Council	Approved, by Council	Pass

Res. No. 823-A

Resolution calling upon the New York State Legislature to adopt S. 2644 and A. 5178, legislation which would make certain persons who are eligible for or receiving social security disability insurance (SSDI) benefits eligible for the Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) program.

By Council Members Koppell, Addabbo Jr., Brewer, Comrie, Dickens, Felder, Fidler, Foster, Gentile, Gonzalez, James, Liu, Nelson, Recchia Jr., Sanders Jr., Seabrook, Weprin, White Jr., Gerson, Jackson, Gennaro, Avella, Monserrate, Sears and The Public Advocate (Ms. Gotbaum)

Whereas, The Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) program, which offers prescription drug assistance to seniors, has proven helpful to many senior citizens who face high costs for pharmaceuticals, but who do not qualify for Medicaid; and

Whereas, In recent years, many programs originally designed to benefit senior citizens, including Social Security and real property tax reductions, have been extended to cover persons with disabilities; and

Whereas, S. 2644 and A. 5178 have been introduced in the New York State Legislature to allow certain individuals with disabilities who are eligible for or who receive social security disability insurance (SSDI) benefits to be eligible for the EPIC program; and

Whereas, This legislation recognizes that through no fault of their own, persons with disabilities may experience limitations on their ability to independently earn a living, similar to restrictions experienced by elderly citizens; and

Whereas, Faced with severe income limitations, declining availability of employer-paid health insurance and caps on prescription coverage which are increasingly being implemented by health insurers, many individuals with disabilities are finding themselves unable to afford pharmaceuticals which may be essential to their health; and

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Whereas, In addition to helping individuals with disabilities maintain their health, advances in pharmaceuticals have also enhanced their quality of life by helping them remain active in their community; and

Whereas By extending the EPIC program to include low-income individuals with disabilities, S. 2644 and A. 5178 would follow precedents set by other programs which began by serving the needs of the elderly, but were later expanded or used as models to provide similar services to individuals with disabilities; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the New York State Legislature to adopt S. 2644 and A. 5178, legislation which would make certain persons who are eligible for or receiving social security disability insurance (SSDI) benefits eligible for the Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) program.

SO/MB
LS #2717
10/25/07