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From the Portland Business Journal:

<https://www.bizjournals.com/portland/news/2019/05/23/oregon-senate-committee-passes-60-day-notice-bill.html>

Oregon Senate committee passes 60-day notice bill for Rx drug price hikes

May 23, 2019, 12:00am PDT

A bill to require pharmaceutical manufacturers to give a 60-day notice before they raise the price of certain prescription drugs cleared another hurdle in the Oregon Legislature on Wednesday.

The Senate Committee on Health Care passed House Bill 2658 on a bipartisan vote of 5-0.

If the bill passes the full Senate, it will head to Gov. Kate Brown for her signature.

The reporting requirement applies to brand-name drugs for which there was a cumulative increase of 10 percent or more or \$10,000 or more during the previous 12-month period. It also applies to generic drugs for which there was a cumulative increase of 25 percent or more and an increase of \$300 or more during the previous 12-month period, according to a summary.

The bill requires drug makers to report the date the increase will become effective, current price of the drug, dollar amount of the planned increase, a statement about whether the increase is necessitated by a change or improvement to the drug and the year the drug became available for sale in the U.S.



PHOTO: THE 2019 PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY REPORT FROM MICHIGAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION

The bill drew support from several consumer and union groups.

“HB 2658 addresses a piece of the transparency puzzle by giving consumers notice of pending price increases,” John Mullin, representing AARP Oregon, said in written testimony. “With this notice, individual consumers can look to finding alternate medications by working with their health care provider. And a broader impact is the potential for insurance companies to negotiate prices based on this information.”

The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America opposed the bill, arguing advanced notification doesn’t save money for patients and it could lead to speculative purchasing or distorted market power in the prescription drug supply chain. Furthermore, the trade group argued, the bill could cause medicine shortages and paint an inaccurate portrait of the prices paid by purchasers.

“Rather than focusing on mandatory disclosure of information, which will do nothing to benefit consumers, legislators could focus on concepts that would actually help patients better understand their insurance design and save money at the point of sale,” PhRMA said in written testimony.

Elizabeth Hayes
Staff Reporter
Portland Business Journal

