

HB 2958 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 3/25, 3/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Defines terms. Requires specified health insurers to cover prescription drugs for urgent medical conditions including drugs prescribed and dispensed by a licensed pharmacist. Authorizes a pharmacist to prescribe and dispense preexposure prophylactic antiretroviral drug. Authorizes a pharmacist to order a human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) test and receive test results. Requires health insurers to reimburse pharmacist for patient consult. Authorizes State Board of Pharmacy to adopt rules. Prohibits specified health insurers from requiring prior authorization during first 60 days of treatment for medication therapy prescribed for opiate withdrawal or antiretroviral drugs, or restrict reimbursement to in-network pharmacists or pharmacies.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Based on significant advances in the use of antiretroviral drugs, clinical guidelines recommend the use of antiretroviral drugs for the prevention and treatment of HIV. Pre-exposure prophylaxis (or PrEP) is now considered an effective HIV prevention tool for at-risk individuals (e.g., a population whose HIV incidence rate is at least 2% per year) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). PrEP involves taking oral medications, daily, to lower an individual's chances of HIV infection. Research indicates PrEP reduces the risk of HIV infection by 99% for sexually transmitted HIV and approximately 74% for individuals exposed to HIV through drug use. Use of a postexposure prophylaxis (or PEP) is also recommend for individuals who suspect exposure to HIV. PEP involves taking antiretroviral medicines within 72 hours after possible exposure.

House Bill 2958 requires commercial health insurers to cover antiretroviral prescription drugs for urgent medical conditions and allows pharmacists to prescribe and dispense these drugs.