

HB 2536 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 2/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure prohibits health benefit plans from requiring step therapy prior to providing coverage for a prescription drug to treat metastatic cancer and associated conditions.

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

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Cancer occurs when abnormal cells in the body grow and multiply. Metastasis occurs when those cells spread from the original site into other places on the body. Cancer that has spread to nearby lymph nodes or tissues is generally stage III; spread of cancer to distant organs is generally stage IV.

Step therapy, or "fail first," is a form of prior authorization that requires a patient to first try a cheaper medication before the payer will cover more expensive medications prescribed by the treating provider.

House Bill 2536 prohibits health benefit plans from requiring step therapy prior to providing coverage for a prescription drug to treat metastatic cancer and associated conditions.