

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Carter, Gordly, Kruse, Courtney, Monnes Anderson
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Shannon Strumpfer, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires health benefit plan that covers chemotherapy to cover orally administered agents as part of medical benefit on a basis no less favorable to the patient than intravenously administered or injected cancer medications.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Insurance industry's support of the measure as amended

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Clarifies that oral chemotherapy will not be offered under less favorable option than intravenous or injected chemotherapy.

BACKGROUND: Intravenously administered chemotherapy has been the standard treatment for advanced forms of cancer since its FDA approval in 1962. The drug causes tumors to shrink but also causes side effects such as pain, hair loss, nausea, vomiting and anemia.

Patients treated with oral versus intravenous chemotherapy results in a two-thirds reduction in hospital time and greater than 50% reduction in costly medical side effects. A patient treated with oral chemotherapy only requires eight hospital visits compared to 30 if treated with standard chemotherapy. The oral treatment is more cost-effective as it may be taken at home whereas intravenous chemotherapy must be administered and monitored by trained health care providers.