

HB 2527 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Buehler

House Committee On Health Care

Action Date: 04/14/17

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 9-0-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Alonso Leon, Buehler, Greenlick, Hack, Hayden, Kennemer, Keny-Guyer, Malstrom, Nosse

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows pharmacists to prescribe and dispense self-administered hormonal contraceptives. Defines self-administered hormonal contraceptives and injectable hormonal contraceptive. Specifies that pharmacist consultations are to be a covered benefit in the prescription drug benefit plans. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Implementation of House Bill 2879 (2015)
- Role of pharmacists to prescribe and dispense hormonal contraceptives
- Advantages of expanding contraceptive choices for women
- Additional education requirement for injectable hormonal contraceptives
- Proposed amendment

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces original measure.

BACKGROUND:

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists supports improved access to contraceptives for women and has advocated for over-the-counter status for oral contraceptives as one strategy to prevent unintended pregnancy. Their studies indicate that women who are at risk for unintended pregnancy would readily access all forms of self-administered birth control from pharmacies, including oral, patch or vaginal ring. Several studies have demonstrated that women can self-screen for contraindications to hormonal therapy. The Oregon Legislative Assembly enacted House Bill 2879 (2015), which permits pharmacists to prescribe and dispense hormonal contraceptive patches and self-administered oral hormonal contraceptives to women who are at least 18 years of age. Until January 1, 2020, pharmacists may provide contraceptives to women under 18 years of age, if they have an existing prescription from a physician for contraceptives. Additionally, all women seeking prescriptions for birth control from their pharmacist have to complete a questionnaire designed to screen for potential risks, allowing the prescribing pharmacist to select an appropriate product. Pharmacists are required to notify their patient's primary prescriber when a medication is prescribed, and they can only continue to dispense the product for three years unless they receive proof that a patient has seen her physician since the medication was initially prescribed. However, the pharmacist cannot require patients to schedule an appointment prior to prescribing and dispensing contraceptives.