

## HB 4116 -3, -5 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Health Care

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**Meeting Dates:** 2/13

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Defines urgent medical condition for regulated commercial health insurers. Requires specified health insurers to cover prescription drugs for urgent medical conditions including drugs prescribed and dispensed by a licensed pharmacist. Requires insurers to reimburse pharmacist. Prohibits specified health insurers from requiring prior authorization during first 30 days of treatment for antiretroviral drugs, or restrict reimbursement to in-network pharmacists or pharmacies. Prohibits specified health insurers from requiring step therapy for antiretroviral drugs. Clarifies "health care coverage" including reimbursement of prescription drugs.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

##### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

-3 Allows an insurer to require a pharmacist that prescribes a drug for an urgent medical condition as defined by the measure to document the patient visit and certify the pharmacist made a reasonable attempt to inform the patient's primary care provider of the prescription.

*REVENUE: Revenue impact statement issued: no impact.*

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

-5 Replaces terms: "medication therapy" with "assisted treatment" and "opiate withdraw" with "use disorder." Removes reference to step therapy; allows an insurer to require generic drug substitution for antiretroviral drugs.

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

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

##### **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 tool and part of HIV prevention strategy 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 recommended for individuals who suspect exposure to HIV. PEP involves taking antiretroviral medicines within 72 hours after possible exposure.

House Bill 4116 requires commercial health insurers to cover antiretroviral prescription drugs for urgent medical conditions including when prescribed and dispensed by pharmacists.