

HB 2958 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 5/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Defines terms. Authorizes pharmacist to administer preexposure and post-exposure prophylactic antiretroviral drug in accordance with rules adopted by the State Board of Pharmacy (Board). Authorizes a pharmacist to order a human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) test and receive test results. Directs Board to allow pharmacists to prescribe, dispense, and administer 30-day supply of preexposure prophylactic antiretroviral drug based on a negative HIV test. Requires health insurers to reimburse for prescription, dispensation and administration of preexposure and post-exposure prophylactic antiretroviral therapies, including patient consult by pharmacist. Prohibits specified health insurers from requiring prior authorization during first 60 days of treatment for medication therapy prescribed for opiate withdrawal or antiretroviral drugs. Exempts health maintenance organizations from prior authorization prohibition. Takes effect on the 91st following adjournment sine die.

House Vote: Passed. Ayes, 47; Nays, 7; Excused, 3.

FISCAL: No fiscal impact.

REVENUE: No revenue impact.

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. Preexposure 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 percent per year) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). PrEP involves taking daily oral medications to lower an individual's chances of HIV infection. Research indicates PrEP reduces the risk of HIV infection by 99 percent for sexually transmitted HIV and approximately 74 percent for individuals exposed to HIV through drug use. Use of a post-exposure 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 A requires commercial health insurers to cover antiretroviral prescription drugs and allows pharmacists to prescribe and dispense these drugs.