

SB 711 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Patterson

Senate Committee On Health Care

Action Date: 03/31/21

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

Vote: 3-2-0-0

Yeas: 3 - Beyer, Manning Jr, Patterson

Nays: 2 - Heard, Knopp

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/22, 3/29, 3/31

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS), as part of the Prescription Drug Price Transparency program, to conduct study of disparities in the cost of hormone replacement drugs between those for men and those for women. Requires report to be delivered to Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2022 and include recommendations for legislative changes, if necessary, to address disparities in the costs of hormone replacement drugs based on sex. Sunsets January 2, 2023. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Price differences in drugs for women versus similar drugs for men
- International price differences
- Confidentiality of information used in study

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Moves responsibility for study to DCBS and limits scope of study to cost of hormone replacement drugs.

BACKGROUND:

According to a 2019 Gallup study, the percentage of adults who reported not having had enough money in the past 12 months to "pay for needed medicine or drugs that a doctor prescribed" to them rose from 18.9 percent in January of that year to 22.9 percent in September. The study also revealed a widening gender gap of adults experiencing "medication insecurity," with a 27.5 percent among women compared to a 18.1 percent among men. In 2018, the New York Times reported that drugs used to treat women's sexual health had seen both increases in costs and reductions in insurance coverage.

Senate Bill 711 A requires the Department of Consumer and Business Services to conduct a study of the disparities in the cost of hormone replacement drugs based on sex and report the findings to the legislature by September 15, 2022.