

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE BILL NO. 182

BY SENATOR MILLS

HEALTH/ACC INSURANCE. Provides relative to health insurance policies providing prescription drug coverage. (8/1/14)

1 AN ACT  
2 To enact R.S. 22:1857.1, relative to health insurance policies providing prescription drug  
3 coverage; to provide for the application of a prorated daily cost-sharing rate; to  
4 prohibit the denial of coverage for dispensing any drug prescribed for the treatment  
5 of a chronic illness made in accordance with a synchronized plan among the insured,  
6 a practitioner, and a pharmacist; to prohibit the use of certain payment structures;  
7 and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 22:1857.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 **§1857.1. Medication synchronization and dispensing fee standardization**  
11 **A. Any individual or group health insurance policy providing**  
12 **prescription drug coverage shall permit the application of a prorated daily cost-**  
13 **sharing rate to prescriptions that are dispensed by a network pharmacy for less**  
14 **than a thirty-day supply if the physician or pharmacist indicates the fill or refill**  
15 **is in the best interest of the patient or is for the purpose of synchronizing the**  
16 **patient's existing medications.**

17 **B. Any individual or group health insurance policy shall provide**

1           coverage for the dispensing of any drug prescribed for the treatment of a  
2           chronic illness that is made in accordance with a plan among the insured, a  
3           practitioner and a pharmacist to synchronize the refilling of multiple  
4           prescriptions for the insured.

5           C. It shall be unlawful for an individual or group health insurance  
6           policy providing prescription drug coverage to use payment structures  
7           incorporating prorated dispensing fees determined by calculation of a day's  
8           supply of medication dispensed. Dispensing fees shall be determined exclusively  
9           by the total number of prescriptions dispensed.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Cheryl Horne.

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#### DIGEST

Mills (SB 182)

Proposed law requires any individual or group health insurance policy providing prescription drug coverage to permit the application of prorated daily cost-sharing rates to prescriptions that are dispensed by a network pharmacy for less than a thirty-day supply if the physician or pharmacist indicates the fill or refill is in the best interest of the patient or is for the purpose of synchronizing the patient's existing medications.

Proposed law requires insurance coverage for the dispensing of any drug prescribed for the treatment of a chronic illness made in accordance with a plan among the insured, practitioner, and pharmacist to synchronize the refilling of multiple prescriptions for the insured.

Proposed law prohibits the use of payment structures for prescription drugs incorporating prorated dispensing fees. Requires dispensing fees to be determined exclusively by the total number of prescriptions dispensed.

Effective August 1, 2014.

(Adds R.S.22:1857.1)