

HB 1632 -- COST OF PRESCRIPTIONS

SPONSOR: Pouche

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Healthcare Reform by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill requires insurers that provide coverage for epinephrine auto-injectors or prescription insulin drugs to limit the total amount that an insured is required to pay for a 30 day supply of covered epinephrine auto-injectors or prescription insulin drugs to an amount not to exceed \$35 for insulin and \$100 for epinephrine injectors, regardless of the quantity or type of covered prescription insulin drug used to fill the insured's prescription. The limit can increase yearly based on a percentage equal to the percentage change from the preceding year in the medical care component of the Consumer Price Index.

The Department of Commerce and Insurance, in conjunction with the Department of Health and Senior Services and the Department of Social Services, shall make a report available to the public of findings from each department as specified in the bill by October 31, 2024.

This bill is similar to HCS HB 342 (2023).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that patient adherence to medication is critical, and while businesses should drive costs, consumers are being taken advantage of in this regard, and there should be medical consumer protections in place.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Pouche; Arnie C. Dienoff; Missouri State Medical Association; and the Missouri Pharmacy Association.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) ensure more affordable drug coverage through obtaining lower prices for drugs from pharmacies and lower-cost dispensing channels, and that employers utilize PBMs to lower coverage costs. This bill would force people to give up their insurance because they cannot afford their premiums, due to the artificial capping of costs, which are then pushed over to everyone else in the plan.

Testifying in person against the bill were Missouri Insurance Coalition; CVS Health; Pharmaceutical Care Management Association; America's Health Insurance Plans; and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.