
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1541

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2017 Regular Session

By House Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Robinson, Johnson, Harris, McBride, Doglio, Wylie, Peterson, Cody, Stonier, Frame, Sawyer, Macri, Sells, Orwall, Jinkins, Senn, Tharinger, Stanford, Riccelli, Fitzgibbon, Ormsby, Gregerson, Hudgins, Ortiz-Self, Ryu, Farrell, Tarleton, Pollet, Clibborn, Fey, Kilduff, Reeves, Kagi, Chapman, Pellicciotti, Bergquist, Goodman, Lovick, and Slatter)

READ FIRST TIME 02/17/17.

1 AN ACT Relating to prescription drug cost transparency; adding a
2 new chapter to Title 43 RCW; creating new sections; prescribing
3 penalties; and providing an expiration date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the cost of
6 prescription drugs has been increasing in recent years, and this
7 increase impacts consumer access to prescription drugs.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) "Covered manufacturer" means a person,
9 corporation, or other entity engaged in the manufacture of
10 prescription drugs sold in or into Washington state.

11 (2) "Data organization" means an organization selected by the
12 office under section 3 of this act to collect, verify, and summarize
13 prescription drug pricing data.

14 (3) "Enrollee," "health care provider," "health plan," and
15 "issuer" mean the same as in RCW 48.43.005.

16 (4) "Office" means the office of financial management.

17 (5) "Prescription drug" means a drug regulated under chapter
18 69.41 or 69.50 RCW. It includes generic, brand name, and specialty
19 drugs, as well as biological products.

1 (6) "Price" means, with respect to a prescription drug, the
2 manufacturer's list price for the drug to wholesalers or direct
3 purchasers in the United States, excluding any discounts, rebates, or
4 reductions in price, for the most recent month for which the
5 information is available, as reported in wholesale price guides or
6 other publications of prescription drug pricing.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The office shall use a competitive
8 procurement process in accordance with chapter 39.26 RCW to select a
9 data organization to collect, verify, and summarize the prescription
10 drug pricing data provided by issuers and manufacturers under
11 sections 4 and 5 of this act.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) By March 1st of each year, an issuer
13 must submit to the data organization the following prescription drug
14 cost and utilization data for the previous calendar year:

15 (a) The twenty-five prescription drugs most frequently prescribed
16 by health care providers participating in the issuer's networks, and
17 the issuer's total spending for each of these prescription drugs;

18 (b) The twenty-five costliest prescription drugs by total health
19 plan spending, and the issuer's total spending for each of these
20 prescription drugs;

21 (c) The twenty-five drugs with the highest year-over-year
22 increase in prescription drug spending, and the percentages of the
23 increases for each of these prescription drugs;

24 (d) Enrollee spending on prescription drugs; and

25 (e) A summary analysis of the impact of prescription drug costs,
26 as compared to other health care costs, on health plan premiums or on
27 spending per medical assistance enrollee under chapter 74.09 RCW, as
28 applicable, disaggregated by the state medicaid program, public
29 employees' benefits board programs, and the individual, small group,
30 and large group markets.

31 (2) An employer-sponsored self-funded health plan or a Taft-
32 Hartley trust health plan may voluntarily provide the data described
33 in subsection (1) of this section to the data organization.

34 (3) The office may assess a fine of up to one thousand dollars
35 per day for failure to comply with the requirements of this section.
36 The assessment of a fine under this subsection is subject to review
37 under the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW. Fines

1 collected under this section must be deposited in the medicaid fraud
2 penalty account created in RCW 74.09.215.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) For purposes of this section:

4 (a) "Covered drug" means any prescription drug that increases in
5 price by: (i) Ten percent or ten thousand dollars, whichever is less,
6 over a twelve-month period; or (ii) twenty-five percent or twenty-
7 five thousand dollars, whichever is less, over a thirty-six-month
8 period.

9 (b) "Qualifying price increase" means a price increase described
10 in (a) of this subsection.

11 (2) Beginning October 1, 2017, a covered manufacturer must report
12 the following data for each covered drug to the data organization:

13 (a) The length of time the covered drug has been on the market;
14 (b) Whether the covered drug is a generic or brand name drug;
15 (c) The covered drug's pricing history in the United States for
16 the previous five years;

17 (d) The total financial assistance given by the manufacturer
18 through assistance programs, rebates, and coupons; and

19 (e) An economic justification of the qualifying price increase
20 for the covered drug.

21 (3) A covered manufacturer must report the information required
22 by subsection (2) of this section no later than sixty days in advance
23 of a qualifying price increase for a covered drug.

24 (4) The data submitted under this section must be made publicly
25 available on the office's web site.

26 (5) The office may assess a fine of up to one thousand dollars
27 per day for failure to comply with the requirements of this section.
28 The assessment of a fine under this subsection is subject to review
29 under the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW. Fines
30 collected under this section must be deposited in the medicaid fraud
31 penalty account created in RCW 74.09.215.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The data organization must compile the
33 data submitted by issuers and manufacturers under sections 4 and 5 of
34 this act and prepare an annual report for the public and the
35 legislature summarizing the data.

36 (1) The report must:

37 (a) Identify overall spending on prescription drugs and
38 prescription drug spending by issuer;

1 (b) Identify the twenty-five most frequently prescribed
2 prescription drugs;

3 (c) Identify the twenty-five costliest prescription drugs, as
4 reported by issuers under section 4 of this act, with the information
5 disaggregated by the state medicaid program, public employees'
6 benefits board programs, and the individual, small group, and large
7 group markets;

8 (d) Indicate, for the prescription drugs identified under
9 subsections (1)(b) and (c) of this section, which of those
10 prescription drugs were reported to the data organization under
11 section 5 of this act;

12 (e) Identify the twenty-five prescription drugs with the greatest
13 price increases during the previous calendar year;

14 (f) Identify the minimum, maximum, and average price increases
15 for the prescription drugs identified under sections 4 and 5 of this
16 act, expressed as a percentage;

17 (g) Summarize the following data related to covered drugs
18 reported under section 5 of this act: The manufacturer name,
19 prescription drug name, and price increase; and

20 (h) Demonstrate the impact of prescription drug costs, as
21 compared to other health care costs, on health insurance premiums,
22 both overall and separately for the state medicaid program, public
23 employees' benefits board programs, and the individual, small group,
24 and large group markets.

25 (2) By November 15, 2018, and November 15th annually thereafter,
26 the data organization must provide the report to the office and the
27 joint select committee on health care oversight established in RCW
28 44.82.010. The office must also post the report on its web site.
29 Within three months of receiving the data organization's report, the
30 joint select committee on health care oversight must hold a public
31 meeting to receive a briefing from the data organization and to
32 consider the reasons for changes in rates, benefits, and cost-sharing
33 in the health insurance market. Following the expiration of the joint
34 select committee, the health care committees of the legislature must
35 receive the report from the data organization and hold the required
36 public meeting.

37 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The office may adopt any rules necessary
38 to implement the requirements of this chapter.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** (1) By November 15, 2018, the health care
2 authority shall provide the relevant committees of the legislature
3 with an update regarding its review of and any efforts to implement
4 value-based purchasing and return on investment pricing strategies
5 for prescription drugs. In addition to the update, the authority
6 shall provide any recommendations for legislation to improve
7 transparency with respect to comparing prescription drug prices with
8 value metrics.

9 (2) This section expires January 1, 2019.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** Sections 2 through 7 of this act
11 constitute a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

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