

Insurance and Real Estate Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6587

AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR

Title: EPINEPHRINE CARTRIDGE INJECTORS.

Vote Date: 3/22/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/9/2021

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Insurance and Real Estate Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

Many families are forced to pay high, out-of-pocket costs for epinephrine cartridge injectors because they are not covered by insurance. This bill provides that certain individual and group health insurance policies shall not impose a coinsurance, copayment, deductible or out-of-pocket expense for a covered epinephrine cartridge injector in an amount that is greater than twenty-five dollars.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

Language was changed to reflect the start date of the law as January 1, 2022

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Expressed

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Patricia Donovan, Connecticut Resident: Ms. Donovan testified that the cost of epinephrine cartridge injectors is increasing and oftentimes insurance does not provide coverage. Connecticut ranks fifth highest among states for food allergy diagnoses and anaphylaxis events. 10% of children and adults are food allergic and need epinephrine.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Connecticut Association of Health Plans: CAHP testified that the bill as written does not affect the price of epinephrine injectors, but rather shifts the burden of cost from out-of-pocket costs to premium costs. This will incentivize cost increases from pharmaceutical companies because consumers are mostly protected from the impact.

Reported by: Mallory Ferrick

Date: April 1, 2021

