
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5275

AN ACT PROHIBITING CERTAIN HEALTH CARRIERS FROM REQUIRING STEP THERAPY FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS USED TO TREAT MENTAL OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONDITIONS.

SUMMARY

This bill prohibits individual and group health insurance policies from requiring the use of step therapy for drugs prescribed to treat covered individuals with mental or behavioral health conditions, so long as the drugs comply with approved U.S. Federal Drug Administration indications. (Step therapy establishes a sequence for prescribing drugs for specific medical conditions that generally requires patients to try less expensive drugs before higher cost drugs.)

The bill applies to individual and group health insurance policies that provide prescription drug coverage and are delivered, issued, renewed, amended, or continued by an insurer, hospital or medical service corporation, HMO, or other entity.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2023

BACKGROUND

Related Bill

SB 331, favorably reported by the Public Health Committee, contains similar provisions prohibiting insurers from requiring the use of step therapy for mental or behavioral health medications.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 29 Nay 2 (03/18/2022)