
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 364 (File 315, as amended by Senate "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH INSURANCE.

SUMMARY

This bill expands a prohibition against insurers requiring the use of step therapy for certain prescription drugs. "Step therapy" establishes a sequence for prescribing drugs for specific medical conditions, which, in practice, generally requires patients to try less expensive drugs before higher cost drugs.

Existing law prohibits certain individual and group health insurance policies from requiring an insured to use step therapy for any prescribed drugs for more than 60 days. Current law also bars these policies from requiring the use of step therapy for any period for cancer drugs prescribed to treat stage IV metastatic cancer. The bill instead more broadly prohibits step therapy use for drugs prescribed to treat behavioral health conditions or chronic, disabling, or life-threatening conditions or diseases. As is the case under current law for the stage IV metastatic cancer drugs, the bill's prohibition only applies to drugs that comply with approved federal Food and Drug Administration indications.

The bill applies to individual and group health insurance policies delivered, issued, renewed, amended, or continued by an insurer, hospital service corporation, medical service corporation, health care center (i.e., HMO), or other entity that provides coverage for prescription drugs.

Lastly, the bill makes technical changes.

*Senate Amendment "A" replaces the underlying bill, which required the Insurance Department to study health insurance issues in Connecticut and report its results to the Insurance and Real Estate

Committee.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2023

COMMITTEE ACTION

Insurance and Real Estate Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 17 Nay 0 (03/22/2022)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 32 Nay 14 (04/29/2022)