

SS HCS HB 2029 -- STEP THERAPY FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

This bill changes the laws regarding step therapy protocols for prescription drugs. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Requires health carriers, health benefit plans, and utilization review organizations to provide health care providers access to a clear, convenient, and readily accessible process to request a step therapy override exception determination for prescription drugs that are restricted for use via a step therapy protocol;
- (2) Requires a step therapy override exception determination to be granted if the patient has tried the step therapy required drugs previously and such drugs were discontinued for specified reasons;
- (3) Permits a health carrier, health benefit plan, or utilization review organization to request relevant documentation from the patient or provider to support the override exception;
- (4) Requires the health carrier, health benefit plan, or utilization review organization, upon the granting of an override exception request, to authorize dispensation of and coverage for the prescription drug prescribed by the patient's treating health care provider, provided the drug is a covered drug under the policy or contract;
- (5) Requires the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration to enforce the provisions of the bill; and
- (6) Requires the provisions of the bill to apply only to health insurance and health benefit plans delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed on or after January 1, 2018.