

Department of Finance and Administration

Legislative Impact Statement

Bill: HB1184

Bill Subtitle: TO REQUIRE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY TO DETERMINE AND PREPARE A LIST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS THAT ARE CONSIDERED SPECIALTY DRUGS BY A PHARMACY BENEFITS MANAGER.

Basic Change :

Representative Wright

To have a uniform list of "specialty" medications for PBMs doing business in the state.

Revenue Impact :

None --- We already cover specialty medications and do not see this bill as requiring any additional or expanded coverage.

Taxpayer Impact :

None

Resources Required :

None

Time Required :

None

Procedural Changes :

Currently the Board and the DUEC (Drug Utilization and Evaluation Committee) reviews the medications and decides to cover or exclude. This change, a state-wide list of specialty medications, would allow the Board and DUEC to possibly treat this list differently with a unique co-pay structure or pre-authorization rules. Typically these are expensive and very sensitive medications requiring special processes and having a uniform list would be very beneficial for the plan. I don't believe that this bill would require that the Board to cover any specific drug on the list but would certainly provide some additional official guidance from the Pharmacy Board.

Other Comments :

The requirement for pricing at Brand or Generic rate, not requiring mail order, and in-state prescription filling are all elements of the plan that we already have in place.

Legal Analysis :

None