



Legislative Council Staff
Research Note

Version: Final
Date: 7/14/2016

Bill Number

House Bill 16-1095

Sponsors

Representative McCann
Senator Crowder

Short Title

***Health Insurance For
Prescription Eye Drop Refills***

Research Analyst

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Status

This research note reflects the final version of the bill which becomes effective on January 1, 2017, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

Summary

This bill requires health insurance plans regulated by the state that provide coverage for prescription eye drops to provide coverage for a renewal of prescription eye drops if:

- the renewal is requested by the insured person within certain time frames; and
- the original prescription states that additional quantities are needed and the requested amount does not exceed the number of additional quantities.

In addition, this bill requires health insurance plans regulated by the state that provide coverage for prescription eye drops to provide coverage for one additional bottle of prescription eye drops if:

- a bottle is requested by the insured person or health care provider at the time the original prescription is filled; and
- the original prescription states that additional bottle is needed for use in a day care center, school, or adult day program.

The prescription eye drop benefits covered by the bill are subject to the same annual deductibles, copayment, or coinsurance established for all other prescription drug benefits under the health insurance plan. The bill does not apply to supplemental insurance plans.

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Background

Prescription eye drops are used to treat a number of conditions including glaucoma, pink eye, and other eye infections and inflammations. Because the drops may miss the eye during an application or because of the number of times a day the drops need to be applied, additional bottles of prescription eye drops may be needed by a patient.

House Action

House Health, Insurance, and Environment Committee (February 2, 2016). At the hearing, a representative from the Colorado Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons and five private citizens testified in support of the bill.

The committee adopted a conceptual amendment, and referred the bill to the House Committee of the Whole. The conceptual amendment added adult day programs to the places for which the additional bottle is needed for use at that could be listed on the original prescription.

House second reading (February 8, 2016). The House adopted the House Health, Insurance, and Environment committee report. The House passed the bill on second reading, as amended.

House third reading (February 9, 2016). The House passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.

Senate Action

Senate Health and Human Services Committee (February 18, 2016). At the hearing, a representative from the Colorado Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons and five private citizens testified in support of the bill. One private citizen testified in a neutral position. The committee referred the bill to the Senate Committee of the Whole with no amendments.

Senate second reading (February 23, 2016). The Senate passed the bill on second reading with no amendments.

Senate third reading (February 24, 2016). The Senate passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.