

Human Services Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6091

AN ACT CONCERNING AN EQUITABLE MEDICAID AUDIT, BILLING AND

Title: REIMBURSEMENT POLICY FOR PHARMACIES.

Vote Date: 3/5/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/20/2025

File No.: 142

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Human Services Committee

CO-SPONSORS OF BILL:

Rep. Tracy Marra, 141st Dist.

Rep. Irene M. Haines, 34th Dist.

Rep. Kurt Vail, 52nd Dist.

Rep. Tom Delnicki, 14th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

HB 6091 establishes fair Medicaid audit, billing, and reimbursement policies for pharmacies. It prohibits the state from denying Medicaid reimbursements based on extrapolated data from minor clerical errors. It also requires a receipt confirmation process for pharmacy notices, a real-time updated database for drug approvals, and a grievance process for pharmacies to contest reimbursements that do not cover their dispensing costs.

This bill seeks to make Medicaid payments more equitable and strengthens the pharmacist's ability to protect themselves from harmful financial burdens. Many pharmacists find the current audit system difficult and harmful to local pharmacies, this makes communication between pharmacists and DSS more equitable and clearer. HB 6091 seeks to make sure folks are able to get their important medication when they need it.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Department of Social Services, Shantelle Varrs, Deputy Commissioner](#): opposes this bill because it prevents DSS from denying Medicaid reimbursements to pharmacies based on extrapolated data from clerical errors, mandates a receipt confirmation process for billing notices, and requires maintaining a preferred drug list database. DSS opposes certain provisions over vague language, existing statutory audit guidelines, and financial implications, they emphasize that most pharmacy audits do not result in extrapolation and that current reimbursement methodologies align with federal standards.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Visels Pharmacy, Owner/Director, Edmund J. Funaro Jr.](#): comments on this bill that the committee should ensure the bill adds that the audits of Medicaid providers are fair and reasonable. They add that the current extrapolation process is unfair and creates large amounts of financial burden. They support this bill with additional extrapolation protection.

[Grieb's Pharmacy, Owner, Debi Hibben](#): supports this bill and summarizes the history and experiences they have had as the owner of a pharmacy. They add that unfair practices by the PBMS's had them at a net loss running on slim margins. And they say many pharmacies have to close because of this. They urge passage of the bill.

[Grieb's Pharmacy, Pharm.D., Timothy Harvey](#): supports this bill and adds that there needs to be better communication between DSS and pharmacies. They suggest mailing a physical letter or having a "confirm receipt" option on online official DSS communication.

[American Pharmacists Association, Vice President, Government Affairs, Michael Baxter](#): Supports this bill and states that due to predatory practices of pharmacy benefit managers, many local pharmacies have declined, resulting in profit being funneled into corporate entities. They also add that this bill focuses on access to lifesaving medications and pharmacist-patient relationship. They urge passage of the bill.

[Northeast Pharmacy Service Corporation, VP of Network Development, Edward Schreiner, Jr., RPh.](#): gives summary of audit claims, and adds that all the examples that pharmacies faced large financial penalties. They continue that extrapolation should only be used for providers with high payment errors, failed error correction and fraud investigation. Also add that's 1.75% threshold should be increased or eliminated.

[Salem Pharmacy LLC, Pharm D., Wendy Mikolinski](#): supports this bill and asks the committee to stand with local pharmacies and disallow the current extrapolation policy. They also include anecdotal stories of their first audit. They urge passage of the bill.

[New Britain Pharmacy, Pharmacy Manager, Abirama Murugavel, PharmD](#): supports this bill and adds that the current extrapolation formula is too harsh and effects the cost of the patient care. They add that the investors have a lot on their plate and can't always focus on local pharmacies.

[Connecticut Pharmacists Association, CEO, Nathan Tinker](#): supports this bill and the step towards making Medicaid policies more equitable. They add that this bill strengthens the ability of pharmacists and mitigates impacts of payment barriers; ensuring all folks receive necessary medications.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Christian Talarski

Date: 3/31/25