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MINORITY LEADER
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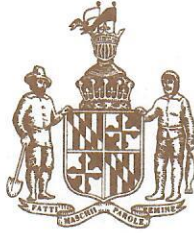
Finance Committee

Executive Nominations Committee

Rules Committee
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Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics

Legislative Policy Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 20, 2024

Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
Health and Government Operations Committee
241 House Office Building

Re: Senate Bill 595 Health Benefit Plans – Calculation of Cost Sharing Contribution – Requirements and Prohibitions

Dear Chairwoman and Members of the Committee,

Senate Bill 595 requires an Administrator, a Carrier, and Pharmacy Benefits Managers (PBMs), when calculating an enrollee's or beneficiary's contribution to an applicable cost sharing requirement (Such as a deductible) under a health plan, to include any payments made by, or on behalf of, the enrollee or beneficiary (Such as through a co-pay assistance program).

An Administrator, Carrier, or PBM may not directly or indirectly set, alter, implement, or condition the terms of health plan coverage based on information about the availability or amount of financial or product assistance available for a prescription drug.

Senate Bill 595 has the following amendments:

Amendment 1 Alters the Title, Purpose Paragraphs.

Amendment 2 For prescription drugs and biological products, applies the requirements of the bill only to circumstances in which: there is no generic equivalent or interchangeable product and, if there is such an alternative, the patient has obtained access to the brand drug through a prior authorization, step therapy protocol, or exception or appeal process.

I urge your favorable report for Senate Bill 595 as amended.