



**2025 SESSION**  
**POSITION PAPER**

**BILL NO:** HB 529

**COMMITTEE:** House Health and Government Operations Committee

**POSITION:** Support

**TITLE:** Health Insurance - Prescription Drug Formularies and Coverage for Generic Drugs and Biosimilars

**BILL ANALYSIS:**

*HB 529 - Health Insurance - Prescription Drug Formularies and Coverage for Generic Drugs and Biosimilars* requires health insurers and non-profit health service plans to post on their websites an updated, accurate, and complete prescription drug formulary that is easily accessible to insured members, prospective members, the State, and the public. The bill prohibits the requirement that an individual create or access an account or enter a policy number on the carrier's website to view the posted formulary. Any changes to the formulary must be posted on their website within thirty days of the change, indicating the date of the change, and a description of the change. The bill also requires health insurance carriers to make specific generic drugs and biosimilars available on the formulary without imposing cost-sharing requirements, prior authorization, or step therapy requirements.

**POSITION AND RATIONALE:**

The Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) supports HB 529, a bill that benefits consumers by requiring transparency of drug formularies and making specific generic drugs and biosimilars available on a formulary without imposing cost-sharing requirements, prior authorization, or step therapy requirements. While the reasons for prescription drug price increases are complicated and varied, rising prescription drug costs may adversely affect patients' health when they cannot afford the medications prescribed to them.

By removing most of the barriers consumers encounter when determining whether a carrier covers a particular prescription drug, this bill ensures that a given prescription

is available, affordable, and timely when care is desperately needed. It also enables consumers to make better-informed decisions for their families when selecting a health insurance carrier based on the prescription benefits.

For the reasons mentioned above, MHCC supports HB 529.

