

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## SSB 5838

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### C 233 L 06

Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Limiting the substitution of preferred drugs in hepatitis C treatment.

**Sponsors:** Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Kastama, Benson, Poulsen, Brandland, Deccio, Keiser, Thibaudeau, Franklin and Rasmussen).

#### **Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care** **House Committee on Health Care**

**Background:** In 2003, the Legislature passed SB 6088 establishing an evidence-based prescription drug program for state agencies. The program includes a preferred drug list (PDL), which is a list of prescription drug classes that have gone through an evidence-based review process to determine the best choice of drugs within the class; and a therapeutic interchange program, through which a provider may endorse the PDL, thus requiring a pharmacist to exchange the preferred drug for any nonpreferred drug that the provider prescribes. The requirement to exchange the preferred for nonpreferred drug, however, does not apply to prescriptions for a refill of an antipsychotic, antidepressant, chemotherapy, antiretroviral, or immunosuppressive drug.

**Summary:** Under the state's prescription drug program, the requirement that a pharmacist exchange a preferred drug for any nonpreferred drug does not apply to a refill of a immunomodulator/antiviral treatment for hepatitis C for which an established, fixed duration of therapy is prescribed for at least twenty-four weeks but no more than forty-eight weeks.

#### **Votes on Final Passage:**

Senate	34	4
House	97	0

**Effective:** June 7, 2006