
Health Care & Wellness Committee

SSB 5729

Brief Description: Removing the expiration date on the cost-sharing cap for insulin.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Health & Long Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Keiser, Cleveland, Hasegawa, Hunt, Kuderer, Nguyen, Shewmake, Stanford, Valdez and Wilson, C.).

<p>Brief Summary of Substitute Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Removes the expiration date on the \$35 cost-sharing cap for insulin.
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Hearing Date: 3/14/23

Staff: Ingrid Lewis (786-7293).

Background:

Insulin is a hormone produced by the pancreas that regulates blood sugar levels. Many individuals with diabetes require insulin therapy to regulate blood sugar. The different types of insulin therapies range from rapid- to long-acting and come in various delivery methods: syringe or pen, pump, and inhaler.

In 2020 the Legislature directed health plans, beginning January 1, 2021, to limit an enrollee's out-of-pocket expenses for insulin to an amount not to exceed \$100 for a 30-day supply until January 1, 2023. In 2022 the Legislature amended the statute to further limit an enrollee's out-of-pocket expenses for insulin to an amount not to exceed \$35 for a 30-day supply until January 1, 2024. Prescription insulin drugs must be covered without being subject to a deductible, and any out-of-pocket costs paid by an enrollee must be applied toward the enrollee's deductible obligation.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary of Bill:

The expiration date limiting out-of-pocket expenses to \$35 for a 30-day supply of insulin is removed.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available. New fiscal note requested on March 13, 2023.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.