

VOTE YES ON HB2259

Medicaid Drug & Therapeutics Board Transparency Act

Sponsor: Rep. Sara Feigenholtz

HB2259 seeks to increase transparency in the decision-making process and makeup of the Medicaid Drug and Therapeutics (D&T) Board that with the Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) determines the fee-for-service medication formulary in the Illinois Medicaid program.

This bill is an important step to increase Medicaid's transparency and accountability when determining which life-saving medications to provide to Medicaid recipients. Today, board meetings are closed to the public and meeting minutes and other materials are not public. Illinois has the only closed D&T committee in the nation.

Key Components

- Requires HFS to establish by January 1, 2020 the Illinois Drug and Therapeutics Advisory Board. The board recommends to HFS which drugs should be included on the Department's preferred drug list. The bill includes specific provisions requiring meetings to be subject to the Open Meetings Act, detailing the Board's composition including voting and non-voting members.
- Requires the Department to adopt rules, to be in place no later than January 1, 2020, for the purpose of establishing and maintaining the Board.
- Requires HFS to develop, no later than January 1, 2020, a standardized format for all Medicaid managed care organizations preferred drug lists in collaboration with Medicaid managed care organizations and other stakeholders, including, but not limited to, organizations that serve individuals impacted by HIV/AIDS or epilepsy, and community-based organizations, providers, and entities with expertise in drug formulary development. This provision will make it easier for providers and patients to compare formularies when selecting a Medicaid plan.

Medicaid is the #1 Insurer for millions of people living with chronic illness like HIV, mental health and other diseases in Illinois. Access to essential and life-saving drugs is essential for people living with persistent and chronic diseases.

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Organizational Support

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