



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Ruhaiza Ridzwan

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: S.B. 265 of the 132nd G.A.

Status: As Reported by Senate Insurance & Financial Institutions

Sponsor: Sen. Dolan

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Subject: To permit certain health insurers to provide payment or reimbursement for services lawfully provided by a pharmacist, to recognize pharmacist services in certain other laws, and to allow Medicaid Program to cover certain health care services provided by a pharmacist

State & Local Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on the state and political subdivisions.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Health insurers

The bill would allow a health plan issuer to provide payment or reimbursement for services lawfully provided by a pharmacist for covered patients and services. Under the bill, a health plan issuer may provide payment or reimbursement if both of the following conditions are met: (1) the pharmacist provided a health care service to a patient in accordance with Chapter 4729. of the Revised Code, including managing an individual's drug therapy under a consult agreement with a physician, administering adult immunizations, or administering certain drugs by injection, and (2) the patient is covered by an individual or group policy, contract, or agreement offered by a health insurer that provides for payment or reimbursement of such services. The bill applies to health insuring corporations (HICs), sickness and accident insurers, public employee benefit plans, and multiple employer welfare arrangements that are delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed in Ohio on or after the bill's effective date.

The bill also would make other changes, including explicitly authorizing pharmacists to provide certain specified services, authorizing pharmacists to be hired by certain entities, and includes pharmacists and pharmacies in the definition of "provider" for the purposes of contracting entities and health care contracts.

All of the provisions related to health insurers in the bill are permissive. The bill would have no direct fiscal effect on the state and local governments unless an insurer is currently not permitted to reimburse a pharmacist for performing these services. If that is the case, it is possible that the bill could reduce insurers' costs of paying benefits for the services. That in turn might reduce the costs for the state and local governments to provide health benefits to employees and their beneficiaries.

Medicaid

Under the bill, the Medicaid Program may cover a health care service provided by a pharmacist to a Medicaid recipient. These services may include either of the following: managing drug therapy under a consult agreement with a physician or administering immunizations and drugs in accordance with certain requirements. This provision is permissive, so any impact will depend on a number of factors including the following: whether the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) chooses to cover these services, what services provided by a pharmacist are currently covered under Medicaid, and how many individuals utilize these services.