

2018 -- S 2131

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

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A N A C T

RELATING TO INSURANCE -- PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFITS

Introduced By: Senators Picard, and Pearson

Date Introduced: January 23, 2018

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 27-20.8 of the General Laws entitled "Prescription Drug Benefits"
2 is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **27-20.8-3. Medication synchronization.**

4 (a) A health insurer, or a health maintenance organization, issuing or delivering in this
5 state an individual or a group health insurance policy that provides prescription drug coverage
6 shall offer medication synchronization to allow an insured to align at least once in a plan year the
7 refill dates for prescription drugs covered by the policy. The insurer or health maintenance
8 organization, shall implement a process for dispensing prescription drugs to an insured for the
9 purpose of aligning the refill dates of such drugs, and such medication synchronization may be
10 available only through a network pharmacy. A controlled substance, a prescription drug
11 dispensed in an unbreakable package, or a multi-dose unit of a prescription drug may not be
12 partially filled for the purpose of aligning refill dates. The insurer or health maintenance
13 organization, shall pay a full dispensing fee to the network pharmacy for each partial refill of a
14 covered prescription drug dispensed to align refill dates, unless otherwise agreed to by the plan
15 and the network pharmacy at the time an insured requests medication synchronization. The
16 insurer or health maintenance organization, shall prorate the cost sharing obligations of the
17 insured for each partial refill of a covered prescription drug dispensed to align refill dates. This
18 section applies to policies renewed or entered into, on or after January 1, 2018.

19 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, an alternate process used by an insurer

1 [which includes early refill dates, refill overrides, and access on the insurer's or health](#)
2 [maintenance organization's public website to the terms and conditions of such a process is](#)
3 [deemed to comply with the requirements of this section.](#)

4 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage and shall apply to all insurance
5 policies renewed or entered into on or after January 1, 2018.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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1 This act would require insurers to let enrollees align the refill dates for most drugs at in-
2 network pharmacies at least once during their insurance plan year. The insurers must prorate
3 patient co-payments for partial refills.

4 This act would take effect upon passage and would apply to all insurance policies
5 renewed or entered into on or after January 1, 2018.

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