

**2019 -- H 6260**

LC002930

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019**

**H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N**

**CREATING A LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMISSION TO EXAMINE AND RECOMMEND  
GUIDELINES FOR STEP THERAPY PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROTOCOLS**

Introduced By: Representatives Serpa, Shekarchi, Cortvriend, Edwards, and Phillips

Date Introduced: June 27, 2019

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, Various health plans provided by health insurers, nonprofit hospital service  
2 corporations, nonprofit medical service corporations and health maintenance organizations use  
3 step therapy protocols to optimize prescribing prescription medications and control costs incurred  
4 for prescription medications by requiring that patients first try lower cost alternatives before  
5 gaining access to more expensive options; and

6           WHEREAS, A valid concern is that this approach can impede immediate access to vital  
7 treatments by requiring patients to try therapies that have previously been proven less effective or  
8 wholly ineffective; now, therefore be it

9           RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created  
10 consisting of thirteen (13) members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the House, not more  
11 than two (2) from the same political party, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of  
12 whom shall be a representative from a pharmacy benefit manager (PBM), to be appointed by the  
13 Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be the Executive Director of the Rhode Island Medical  
14 Society, or designee; one of whom shall be the Director of the Rhode Island Department of  
15 Health, or designee; two (2) of whom shall be representatives from the health insurance industry,  
16 to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be a licensed pharmacist from a  
17 retail chain, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be a member of the  
18 public, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be a representative from  
19 the pharmaceutical industry, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be a

1 representative from the American Cancer Society, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House;  
2 and one of whom shall be the President of America's Health Insurance Plans (AHP), or designee.

3 In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to a permanent advisory  
4 commission, a legislative study commission, or any commission created by a General Assembly  
5 resolution, the appointing authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in lieu  
6 of a legislator.

7 The purpose of said commission shall be to examine current clinical guidelines,  
8 screening, policies, and procedures for step therapy prescription drug protocols used by insurers,  
9 health plans, and various health care providers and recommend possible alternative options,  
10 appeal procedures, and screening methods to provide for more immediate coverage and  
11 eligibility, and review the cost impact for the utilization and prescription of augmented  
12 prescription drugs.

13 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at  
14 the call of the Speaker of the House and organize and shall select from among the legislators, a  
15 chairperson

16 Vacancies in said commission shall be filled in like manner as the original appointment.

17 The membership of said commission shall receive no compensation for their services.

18 All departments and agencies of the state shall furnish such advice and information,  
19 documentary and otherwise, to said commission and its agents as is deemed necessary or  
20 desirable by the commission to facilitate the purposes of this resolution.

21 The Speaker of the House is hereby authorized and directed to provide suitable quarters  
22 for said commission; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the  
24 House of Representatives no later than April 28, 2020, and said commission shall expire on May  
25 28, 2020.

=====  
LC002930  
=====

EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
HOUSE RESOLUTION  
CREATING A LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMISSION TO EXAMINE AND RECOMMEND  
GUIDELINES FOR STEP THERAPY PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROTOCOLS

\*\*\*

- 1 This resolution would create a thirteen (13) member special legislative commission
- 2 whose purpose it would be to make a comprehensive review and recommend guidelines for step
- 3 therapy protocols, and who would report back to the House of Representatives no later than April
- 4 28, 2020, and whose life would expire on May 28, 2020.

=====  
LC002930  
=====