

An Act relative to pharmaceutical access, costs, and transparency

This legislation would make urgent and much-needed reforms to the pharmaceutical system in the state by lowering the cost of drugs at the pharmacy counter and improving oversight of the pharmaceutical industry.

Highlights

- 1 Lowers the cost of medications that treat diabetes, asthma, and chronic heart conditions. Insurers are required to eliminate deductibles and cost-sharing requirements for one generic drug and to cap co-payments on one brand-name drug at \$25 per 30-day supply.
- 2 Increases oversight of pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), which play a major role in determining how prescription drugs are tiered and priced on insurance plans. This legislation also requires PBMs to be licensed by the division of insurance.
- 3 Empowers the Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA) to collect data related to drug costs.
- 4 Includes pharmaceutical companies and pharmacy benefit managers in the Health Policy Commission (HPC)'s Annual Health Care Cost Trends Hearings.
- 5 Establishes the Office for Pharmaceutical Policy and Analysis, tasked with analyzing trends related to pharmaceutical access, affordability and spending in Massachusetts.

MassSenate

Relief Can't Wait
*Lives are at stake.
Let's lower the cost of
prescription drugs.*

Five years after I first introduced this legislation, the Massachusetts Legislature has now taken a strong step towards reining in prescription drug prices while enhancing transparency and oversight within the pharmaceutical industry. Massachusetts often serves as a national leader, providing ground-breaking health care services and fostering innovative breakthroughs for our biotech and life sciences sector, but everyday residents of our Commonwealth are being priced out of essential and life-saving medications. This bill begins to meet the urgency of this challenge by eliminating cost-sharing for generic drugs and capping out-of-pocket costs for brand name drugs used to treat diabetes, asthma, and certain heart conditions.

—Senator Cindy F. Friedman (D-Arlington)

