



**Colorado  
Legislative  
Council  
Staff**

**HB17-1350**

**FISCAL NOTE**

**FISCAL IMPACT:**  State  Local  Statutory Public Entity  Conditional  No Fiscal Impact

**Drafting Number:** LLS 17-1123 **Date:** April 26, 2017  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Pettersen; Liston **Bill Status:** House Health, Insurance, and  
 Sen. Jahn; Smallwood Environment  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Kerry White (303-866-3469)

**BILL TOPIC:** PHARMACIST PARTIAL FILL OPIOID PRESCRIPTION

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-2019
<b>State Revenue</b>		
<b>State Expenditures</b>	Workload increase.	Potential expenditure increase.
<b>Appropriation Required:</b> None.		
<b>Future Year Impacts:</b> Potential expenditure increase.		

**Summary of Legislation**

The bill allows a pharmacist filling a prescription for a schedule II opioid to dispense the drug in smaller increments when the partial fill is requested by the patient or practitioner who wrote the prescription and the total amount dispensed through incremental fillings does not exceed the total quantity prescribed. The bill sets forth timing, documentation, and prescribing practitioner notification requirements concerning partial fillings of opioid prescriptions.

Under the bill, a patient who receives a partial opioid prescription is not subject to any cost sharing or coinsurance under his or her's health plan for subsequent fills of the remaining portion of the prescription after paying for the initial portion.

**Background**

Opioids are a category of narcotic pain medications. Examples include codeine, morphine, Vicodin (hydrocodone), Demorol (meperidine), and Oxycontin (oxycodone), among others.

**State Expenditures**

Beginning in FY 2017-18, the bill increases workload for the Department of Regulatory Agencies. In future years, costs may increase for the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing.

**Department of Regulatory Agencies.** Workload is increased to update rules and to provide outreach to licensed pharmacists regarding the bill's requirements. To the extent that the bill results in additional complaints against licensed pharmacists, workload is also increased. These impacts are not anticipated to require a change in appropriations for the department.

**Department of Health Care Policy and Financing.** Future costs may increase for the Medicaid program, which pays a dispensing fee to the pharmacy each time a prescription is filled, which varies by the number of total prescriptions filled by that pharmacy. To the extent that this bill results in a change in pharmacy dispensing fees, the fiscal note assumes the department will request any necessary adjustments through the annual budget process. Depending on the category of clients served, Medicaid costs are paid with General Fund, cash funds, and federal funds. As of this writing, the number of opioid prescriptions filled by Medicaid patients is unavailable.

## Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 9, 2017, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 10, 2017, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

## State and Local Government Contacts

Corrections  
County Coroners  
Health Care Policy And Financing  
Human Services  
Judicial  
Municipalities  
Public Safety  
Sheriffs

Counties  
District Attorneys  
Higher Education  
Information Technology  
Local Affairs  
Public Health And Environment  
Regulatory Agencies