

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-third General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 22-0251.01 Kristen Forrestal x4217

HOUSE BILL 22-1370

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR HEALTH-CARE**  
102 **PRODUCTS.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

Beginning in 2023, the bill requires each health insurance carrier (carrier) that offers an individual or small group health benefit plan in this state to offer at least 25% of its health benefit plans on the Colorado health benefit exchange (exchange) and at least 25% of its plans not on the exchange in each bronze, silver, gold, and platinum benefit level in each service area as copayment-only payment structures for all

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

prescription drug cost tiers.

Starting in 2024, a carrier or, if a carrier uses a pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) for claims processing services or other prescription drug or device services under a health benefit plan offered by the carrier, the PBM, or a representative of the carrier or the PBM, is prohibited from modifying or applying a modification to the current prescription drug formulary during the current plan year.

The bill repeals and reenacts the current requirements for step therapy and requires a carrier to use clinical review criteria to establish the step-therapy protocol.

For each health benefit plan issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2024, the bill requires each carrier or PBM to demonstrate to the division of insurance that:

- 100% of the estimated rebates received or to be received in connection with dispensing or administering prescription drugs included in the carrier's prescription drug formulary are used to reduce costs for the employer or individual purchasing the plan;
- For small group and large employer health benefit plans, all rebates are used to reduce employer and individual employee costs; and
- For individual health benefit plans, all rebates are used to reduce consumers' premiums and out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs to the extent practicable.

The bill requires the commissioner of insurance (commissioner) to promulgate rules to implement prescription drug pass-through requirements for carriers. Each carrier or PBM is required to report annually specified prescription drug rebate information to the commissioner.

Beginning in 2023, the bill requires the department of health care policy and financing, in collaboration with the administrator of the all-payer claims database, to conduct an annual analysis of the prescription drug rebates received in the previous calendar year, by carrier and prescription drug tier, and make the analysis available to the public.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 10-16-103.6 as  
3 follows:

4           **10-16-103.6. Copayment-only prescription payment structures**  
5 **- required inclusion in health benefit plans - rules.** (1) (a) (I) IN

1 ADDITION TO THE REQUIREMENTS IN SECTION 10-16-103.4(2), FOR HEALTH  
2 BENEFIT PLANS ISSUED OR RENEWED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2023, EACH  
3 CARRIER THAT OFFERS AN INDIVIDUAL OR SMALL GROUP HEALTH BENEFIT  
4 PLAN SHALL OFFER AT LEAST TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF ITS HEALTH  
5 BENEFIT PLANS ON THE EXCHANGE AND AT LEAST TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT  
6 OF ITS PLANS NOT ON THE EXCHANGE IN EACH BRONZE, SILVER, GOLD, AND  
7 PLATINUM BENEFIT LEVEL IN EACH SERVICE AREA AS COPAYMENT-ONLY  
8 PAYMENT STRUCTURES FOR ALL PRESCRIPTION DRUG COST TIERS.

9 (b) FOR EACH COPAYMENT-ONLY PAYMENT STRUCTURE FOR  
10 PRESCRIPTIONS DRUGS:

11 (I) THE COPAYMENT AMOUNT FOR THE HIGHEST PRESCRIPTION  
12 DRUG COST TIER MUST NOT BE GREATER THAN ONE-TWELFTH OF THE  
13 HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN'S OUT-OF-POCKET MAXIMUM AMOUNT;

14 (II) THE COPAYMENT AMOUNTS BETWEEN THE TWO HIGHEST  
15 PRESCRIPTION DRUG COST TIERS MUST HAVE A COST DIFFERENCE OF AT  
16 LEAST TEN PERCENT;

17 (III) NO MORE THAN FIFTY PERCENT OF THE DRUGS ON THE  
18 PRESCRIPTION DRUG FORMULARY USED TO TREAT A SPECIFIC CONDITION  
19 MAY BE PLACED ON THE HIGHEST PRESCRIPTION DRUG COST TIER; AND

20 (IV) EACH CARRIER SHALL USE "RX COPAY" AT THE END OF THE  
21 MARKETING NAMES FOR EACH COPAYMENT-ONLY PAYMENT STRUCTURE.

22 (2) THE COMMISSIONER MAY PROMULGATE RULES TO IMPLEMENT  
23 AND ENFORCE THIS SECTION.

24 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 10-16-122.4 as  
25 follows:

26 **10-16-122.4. Pharmacy benefits - formulary change**  
27 **prohibition - exceptions - definition - rules.** (1) (a) STARTING IN 2024,

1 EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION, A CARRIER OR,  
2 IF A CARRIER USES A PBM FOR CLAIMS PROCESSING SERVICES OR OTHER  
3 PRESCRIPTION DRUG OR DEVICE SERVICES, AS THOSE TERMS ARE DEFINED  
4 IN SECTION 10-16-122.1, UNDER A HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN OFFERED BY THE  
5 CARRIER, THE PBM, OR A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CARRIER OR THE PBM,  
6 SHALL NOT MODIFY OR APPLY A MODIFICATION TO THE CURRENT  
7 PRESCRIPTION DRUG FORMULARY DURING THE CURRENT PLAN YEAR.

8 (b) AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION (1), "MODIFY" OR  
9 "MODIFICATION" INCLUDES ELIMINATING A PARTICULAR PRESCRIPTION  
10 DRUG FROM THE FORMULARY OR MOVING A PRESCRIPTION DRUG TO A  
11 HIGHER COST-SHARING TIER.

12 (2) A CARRIER OFFERING A HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN IN THIS STATE  
13 THAT INCLUDES A PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT AND USES A PRESCRIPTION  
14 DRUG FORMULARY OR LIST OF COVERED DRUGS MAY:

15 (a) REMOVE A PRESCRIPTION DRUG FROM THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG  
16 FORMULARY OR LIST OF COVERED DRUGS, WITH ADVANCE NOTICE TO A  
17 COVERED PERSON AND THE COVERED PERSON'S PROVIDER, IF:

18 (I) THE FDA ISSUES AN ANNOUNCEMENT, GUIDANCE, NOTICE,  
19 WARNING, OR STATEMENT CONCERNING THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG THAT  
20 CALLS INTO QUESTION THE CLINICAL SAFETY OF THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG;

21 OR

22 (II) THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG IS APPROVED BY THE FDA FOR USE  
23 WITHOUT A PRESCRIPTION; OR

24 (b) MOVE A BRAND-NAME PRESCRIPTION DRUG FROM A  
25 PRESCRIPTION DRUG COST-SHARING TIER THAT IMPOSES A LESSER  
26 COPAYMENT OR DEDUCTIBLE FOR THE BRAND-NAME PRESCRIPTION DRUG  
27 TO A COST-SHARING TIER THAT IMPOSES A GREATER COPAYMENT OR

1 DEDUCTIBLE FOR THE BRAND-NAME PRESCRIPTION DRUG IF THE CARRIER  
2 ADDS TO THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG FORMULARY OR LIST OF COVERED  
3 DRUGS A GENERIC PRESCRIPTION DRUG THAT IS:

4 (I) APPROVED BY THE FDA FOR USE AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE  
5 BRAND-NAME PRESCRIPTION DRUG; AND

6 (II) IN A PRESCRIPTION DRUG COST-SHARING TIER THAT IMPOSES  
7 A COPAYMENT OR DEDUCTIBLE FOR THE GENERIC PRESCRIPTION DRUG  
8 THAT IS LESS THAN THE COPAYMENT OR DEDUCTIBLE THAT IS IMPOSED FOR  
9 THE BRAND-NAME PRESCRIPTION DRUG IN THE COST-SHARING TIER TO  
10 WHICH THE BRAND-NAME PRESCRIPTION DRUG IS MOVED.

11 (3) THIS SECTION DOES NOT PROHIBIT A CARRIER FROM ADDING A  
12 PRESCRIPTION DRUG TO A PRESCRIPTION DRUG FORMULARY OR LIST OF  
13 COVERED DRUGS AT ANY TIME.

14 (4) THE COMMISSIONER MAY PROMULGATE RULES TO IMPLEMENT  
15 AND ENFORCE THIS SECTION.

16 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal and reenact,**  
17 **with amendments,** 10-16-145 as follows:

18 **10-16-145. Step-therapy protocol - limitations - exceptions -**  
19 **definitions - rules.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION:

20 (a) "AB-RATED" MEANS THERAPEUTICALLY EQUIVALENT AS  
21 EVALUATED BY THE FDA IN THE MOST CURRENT EDITION OF THE FDA  
22 PUBLICATION "APPROVED DRUG PRODUCTS WITH THERAPEUTIC  
23 EQUIVALENCE EVALUATIONS" OR ITS SUCCESSOR PUBLICATION.

24 (b) "CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES" MEANS A SYSTEMATICALLY  
25 DEVELOPED STATEMENT TO ASSIST PROVIDERS AND COVERED PERSONS IN  
26 MAKING DECISIONS ABOUT APPROPRIATE HEALTH CARE FOR SPECIFIC  
27 CLINICAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND CONDITIONS.

1 (c) "CLINICAL REVIEW CRITERIA" MEANS THE WRITTEN SCREENING  
2 PROCEDURES, DECISION ABSTRACTS, CLINICAL PROTOCOLS, AND CLINICAL  
3 PRACTICE GUIDELINES USED BY A CARRIER OR PRIVATE UTILIZATION  
4 REVIEW ORGANIZATION TO DETERMINE THE MEDICAL NECESSITY AND  
5 APPROPRIATENESS OF THE PROVISION OF HEALTH-CARE SERVICES.  
6 CLINICAL REVIEW CRITERIA MUST NOT BE MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN THE  
7 FDA'S INDICATION FOR A SPECIFIC DRUG OR HEALTH- CARE SERVICE.

8 (d) "MEDICAL NECESSITY" MEANS A DETERMINATION BY A  
9 CARRIER THAT A PRUDENT PROVIDER WOULD PROVIDE A PARTICULAR  
10 COVERED HEALTH-CARE SERVICE TO A PATIENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
11 PREVENTING, DIAGNOSING, OR TREATING AN ILLNESS, AN INJURY, A  
12 DISEASE, OR A SYMPTOM IN A MANNER THAT IS:

13 (I) IN ACCORDANCE WITH GENERALLY ACCEPTED STANDARDS OF  
14 MEDICAL PRACTICE AND APPROVED BY THE FDA OR OTHER REQUIRED  
15 AGENCY;

16 (II) CLINICALLY APPROPRIATE IN TERMS OF TYPE, FREQUENCY,  
17 EXTENT, SERVICE SITE, AND LEVEL AND DURATION OF SERVICE;

18 (III) KNOWN TO BE EFFECTIVE IN IMPROVING HEALTH, AS PROVEN  
19 BY SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE;

20 (IV) THE MOST APPROPRIATE SUPPLY, SETTING, OR LEVEL OF  
21 SERVICE THAT CAN BE SAFELY PROVIDED GIVEN THE PATIENT'S CONDITION  
22 AND THAT CANNOT BE OMITTED FROM THE PATIENT'S TREATMENT; AND

23 (V) NOT PRIMARILY FOR THE ECONOMIC BENEFIT OF A CARRIER OR  
24 PURCHASER OR FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THE PATIENT, THE TREATING  
25 PROVIDER, OR OTHER PROVIDER.

26 (f) "PRIVATE UTILIZATION REVIEW ORGANIZATION" OR  
27 "ORGANIZATION" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS SET FORTH IN SECTION

1 10-16-112 (1)(a).

2 (g) "STEP-THERAPY PROTOCOL" MEANS A PROTOCOL, POLICY, OR  
3 PROGRAM THAT ESTABLISHES THE SPECIFIC SEQUENCE IN WHICH  
4 PRESCRIPTION DRUGS THAT ARE MEDICALLY APPROPRIATE FOR A  
5 PARTICULAR COVERED PERSON ARE COVERED BY A HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN  
6 FOR A SPECIFIED MEDICAL CONDITION.

7 (2) IF A CARRIER, A PRIVATE UTILIZATION REVIEW ORGANIZATION,  
8 OR A PBM REQUIRES A STEP-THERAPY PROTOCOL, THE CARRIER,  
9 ORGANIZATION, OR PBM SHALL USE CLINICAL REVIEW CRITERIA TO  
10 ESTABLISH THE PROTOCOL BASED ON CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES.

11 (3) UPON WRITTEN REQUEST OF A COVERED PERSON OR COVERED  
12 PERSON'S PRESCRIBING PROVIDER, A CARRIER, PRIVATE UTILIZATION  
13 REVIEW ORGANIZATION, OR PBM SHALL:

14 (a) PROVIDE ALL SPECIFIC CLINICAL REVIEW CRITERIA AND OTHER  
15 CLINICAL INFORMATION RELATING TO A COVERED PERSON'S PARTICULAR  
16 CONDITION OR DISEASE, INCLUDING CLINICAL REVIEW CRITERIA RELATING  
17 TO A STEP-THERAPY EXCEPTION, TO THE REQUESTER; AND

18 (b) MAKE THE CLINICAL REVIEW CRITERIA AND OTHER CLINICAL  
19 INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE CARRIER'S, ORGANIZATION'S, OR PBM'S  
20 WEBSITE.

21 (4) (a) A CARRIER, A PRIVATE UTILIZATION REVIEW  
22 ORGANIZATION, OR A PBM SHALL GRANT AN EXCEPTION TO A  
23 STEP-THERAPY PROTOCOL IF:

24 (I) THE REQUIRED PRESCRIPTION DRUG IS CONTRAINDICATED OR  
25 WILL LIKELY CAUSE AN ADVERSE REACTION OR HARM TO THE COVERED  
26 PERSON;

27 (II) THE REQUIRED PRESCRIPTION DRUG IS EXPECTED TO BE

1 INEFFECTIVE BASED ON THE KNOWN CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE  
2 COVERED PERSON AND THE KNOWN CHARACTERISTICS OF THE  
3 PRESCRIPTION DRUG REGIMEN;

4 (III) THE COVERED PERSON HAS TRIED, WHILE UNDER THE  
5 COVERED PERSON'S CURRENT OR PREVIOUS HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN, THE  
6 REQUIRED PRESCRIPTION DRUG OR ANOTHER PRESCRIPTION DRUG IN THE  
7 SAME PHARMACOLOGIC CLASS OR WITH THE SAME MECHANISM OF ACTION,  
8 AND THE USE OF THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BY THE COVERED PERSON WAS  
9 DISCONTINUED DUE TO LACK OF EFFICACY OR EFFECTIVENESS, DIMINISHED  
10 EFFECT, OR AN ADVERSE EVENT;

11 (IV) THE REQUIRED PRESCRIPTION DRUG IS NOT IN THE BEST  
12 INTEREST OF THE COVERED PERSON, BASED ON MEDICAL NECESSITY; OR

13 (V) THE COVERED PERSON, WHILE ON THE COVERED PERSON'S  
14 CURRENT OR PREVIOUS HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN, IS STABLE ON A  
15 PRESCRIPTION DRUG SELECTED BY THE PRESCRIBING PROVIDER FOR THE  
16 MEDICAL CONDITION UNDER CONSIDERATION.

17 (b) THE COMMISSIONER SHALL PROMULGATE RULES TO ESTABLISH:

18 (I) A PROCESS, AND THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS, FOR PROVIDERS  
19 TO SUBMIT STEP-THERAPY EXCEPTION REQUESTS; AND

20 (II) TIME FRAMES FOR:

21 (A) CARRIERS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND PBMS TO GRANT OR DENY  
22 STEP-THERAPY EXCEPTION REQUESTS;

23 (B) CARRIERS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND PBMS TO REQUEST  
24 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM PRESCRIBING PROVIDERS; AND

25 (C) PROVIDERS TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS FROM CARRIERS,  
26 ORGANIZATIONS, AND PBMS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

27 (c) IF THE INITIAL REQUEST FOR A STEP-THERAPY PROTOCOL



1 EXCEPTION IS DENIED, THE CARRIER, ORGANIZATION, OR PBM SHALL  
2 INFORM THE COVERED PERSON IN WRITING THAT THE COVERED PERSON  
3 HAS THE RIGHT TO AN INTERNAL OR EXTERNAL REVIEW OR AN APPEAL OF  
4 THE ADVERSE DETERMINATION PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 10-16-113 AND  
5 10-16-113.5.

6 (d) A CARRIER, AN ORGANIZATION, OR A PBM SHALL AUTHORIZE  
7 COVERAGE FOR THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRESCRIBED BY THE COVERED  
8 PERSON'S PRESCRIBING PROVIDER WHEN THE STEP-THERAPY PROTOCOL  
9 EXCEPTION REQUEST IS GRANTED.

10 (5) THIS SECTION DOES NOT PROHIBIT:

11 (a) A CARRIER, AN ORGANIZATION, OR A PBM FROM REQUIRING A  
12 COVERED PERSON TO TRY AN AB-RATED GENERIC EQUIVALENT OR AN  
13 INTERCHANGEABLE BIOLOGICAL PRODUCT AS DEFINED BY 42 U.S.C. SEC.  
14 262 (i)(3), UNLESS THE COVERED PERSON OR COVERED PERSON'S  
15 PRESCRIBING PROVIDER HAS REQUESTED A STEP-THERAPY PROTOCOL  
16 EXCEPTION AND THE PRESCRIBED DRUG MEETS THE CRITERIA FOR A  
17 STEP-THERAPY PROTOCOL EXCEPTION SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (4)(a) OF  
18 THIS SECTION;

19 (b) A CARRIER, AN ORGANIZATION, OR A PBM FROM REQUIRING A  
20 PHARMACIST TO MAKE SUBSTITUTIONS OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS  
21 CONSISTENT WITH PART 5 OF ARTICLE 280 OF TITLE 12; OR

22 (c) A PROVIDER FROM PRESCRIBING A DRUG THAT IS DETERMINED  
23 TO BE MEDICALLY APPROPRIATE.

24 (6) THE COMMISSIONER MAY PROMULGATE RULES TO IMPLEMENT  
25 AND ENFORCE THIS SECTION.

26 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend as it exists**  
27 **until January 1, 2023,** 10-16-145.5 as follows:

1           **10-16-145.5. Step therapy prohibited - stage four advanced**  
2 **metastatic cancer - definitions.** (1) Notwithstanding section 10-16-145,  
3 a carrier that provides coverage under a health benefit plan for the  
4 treatment of stage four advanced metastatic cancer shall not limit or  
5 exclude coverage under the health benefit plan for a drug approved by the  
6 ~~United States food and drug administration~~ FDA and that is on the  
7 carrier's prescription drug formulary by mandating that a covered person  
8 with stage four advanced metastatic cancer undergo A step-therapy  
9 PROTOCOL if the use of the approved drug is consistent with:

10           (a) The ~~United States food and drug administration-approved~~  
11 FDA-APPROVED indication or the National Comprehensive Cancer  
12 Network drugs and biologics compendium indication for the treatment of  
13 stage four advanced metastatic cancer; or

14           (b) Peer-reviewed medical literature.

15           (2) ~~For the purposes of~~ AS USED IN this section:

16           (a) "Stage four advanced metastatic cancer" means cancer that has  
17 spread from the primary or original site of the cancer to nearby tissues,  
18 lymph nodes, or other parts of the body.

19           (b) "STEP-THERAPY PROTOCOL" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS  
20 SPECIFIED IN SECTION 10-16-145 (1)(f).

21           **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend as it will**  
22 **become effective January 1, 2023,** 10-16-145.5 as follows:

23           **10-16-145.5. Step therapy - prior authorization - prohibited -**  
24 **stage four advanced metastatic cancer - opioid prescription -**  
25 **definitions.** (1) ~~(a)~~ Notwithstanding section 10-16-145, a carrier that  
26 provides coverage under a health benefit plan for the treatment of stage  
27 four advanced metastatic cancer shall not limit or exclude coverage under

1 the health benefit plan for a drug that is approved by the FDA and that is  
2 on the carrier's prescription drug formulary by mandating that a covered  
3 person with stage four advanced metastatic cancer undergo A step-therapy  
4 PROTOCOL if the use of the approved drug is consistent with:

5 (H) (a) The FDA-approved indication or the National  
6 Comprehensive Cancer Network drugs and biologics compendium  
7 indication for the treatment of stage four advanced metastatic cancer; or

8 (H) (b) Peer-reviewed medical literature.

9 ~~(b) As used in this subsection (1), "stage four advanced metastatic~~  
10 ~~cancer" means cancer that has spread from the primary or original site of~~  
11 ~~the cancer to nearby tissues, lymph nodes, or other parts of the body.~~

12 (2) ~~(a)~~ Notwithstanding section 10-16-145, a carrier that provides  
13 prescription drug benefits shall:

14 (H) (a) Provide coverage for at least one atypical opioid that has  
15 been approved by the FDA for the treatment of acute or chronic pain at  
16 the lowest tier of the carrier's drug formulary and not require A  
17 step-therapy PROTOCOL or prior authorization, as defined in section  
18 10-16-112.5 (7)(d), for that atypical opioid; and

19 (H) (b) Not require A step-therapy PROTOCOL for the prescription  
20 and use of any additional atypical opioid medications that have been  
21 approved by the FDA for the treatment of acute or chronic pain.

22 ~~(b) As used in this subsection (2), "atypical opioid" means an~~  
23 ~~opioid agonist with a documented safer side-effect profile and less risk of~~  
24 ~~addiction than older opium-based medications.~~

25 (3) AS USED IN THIS SECTION:

26 (a) "ATYPICAL OPIOID" MEANS AN OPIOID AGONIST WITH A  
27 DOCUMENTED SAFER SIDE-EFFECT PROFILE AND LESS RISK OF ADDICTION

1 THAN OLDER OPIUM-BASED MEDICATIONS.

2 (b) "STAGE FOUR ADVANCED METASTATIC CANCER" MEANS  
3 CANCER THAT HAS SPREAD FROM THE PRIMARY OR ORIGINAL SITE OF THE  
4 CANCER TO NEARBY TISSUES, LYMPH NODES, OR OTHER PARTS OF THE  
5 BODY.

6 (c) "STEP-THERAPY PROTOCOL" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS  
7 SPECIFIED IN SECTION 10-16-145 (1)(f).

8 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 10-16-155 as  
9 follows:

10 **10-16-155. Prescription drugs - cost sharing - point-of-sale**  
11 **calculation - rebates - confidentiality - rules - legislative declaration**  
12 **- definitions.** (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY FINDS AND DECLARES  
13 THAT:

14 (a) WITH APPROXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED FIFTY BILLION DOLLARS  
15 IN PRESCRIPTION DRUG REBATES IN THE HEALTH-CARE SYSTEM EACH  
16 YEAR, IT IS UNCLEAR IF THESE REBATES ARE BEING USED TO BENEFIT  
17 CONSUMERS BY PROVIDING THEM MAXIMIZED COST SAVINGS;

18 (b) MOST COLORADANS EXPERIENCE INCREASES IN PRESCRIPTION  
19 DRUG COSTS AND DO NOT BENEFIT FROM INCREASING REBATES WITH  
20 CORRESPONDING OFFSETS IN THEIR COSTS; AND

21 (c) REQUIRING HEALTH INSURERS TO PASS REBATE SAVINGS ON TO  
22 CONSUMERS BASED ON THE REBATES THEY RECEIVE FROM  
23 MANUFACTURERS FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS COVERED UNDER THEIR  
24 HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS WILL PROVIDE IMMEDIATE FINANCIAL RELIEF FOR  
25 COLORADANS AND ENABLE THEM TO OFFSET RISING PRESCRIPTION DRUG  
26 COSTS.

27 (2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE

1 REQUIRES:

2 (a) "HEALTH INSURER" MEANS:

3 (I) A CARRIER AS DEFINED IN SECTION 10-16-102 (8); AND

4 (II) A CARRIER AS DEFINED IN SECTION 24-50-603 (2).

5 (b) "DEFINED COST SHARING" MEANS A DEDUCTIBLE PAYMENT,  
6 COPAYMENT AMOUNT, OR COINSURANCE AMOUNT IMPOSED ON A COVERED  
7 PERSON FOR A COVERED PRESCRIPTION DRUG UNDER THE COVERED  
8 PERSON'S HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN.

9 (c) "MANUFACTURER" MEANS:

10 (I) A PERSON THAT:

11 (A) MANUFACTURES A PRESCRIPTION DRUG THAT IS SOLD TO  
12 PURCHASERS IN THIS STATE; OR

13 (B) ENTERS INTO A LEASE OR OTHER CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT  
14 WITH ANOTHER MANUFACTURER TO MARKET AND DISTRIBUTE A  
15 PRESCRIPTION DRUG IN THIS STATE UNDER THE PERSON'S OWN NAME AND  
16 SETS OR CHANGES THE WHOLESALE ACQUISITION COST OF THE  
17 PRESCRIPTION DRUG IN THIS STATE; OR

18 (II) A REBATE AGGREGATOR, A SUBSIDIARY, ANY AFFILIATED  
19 HOLDING OR PARENT COMPANY, OR ANY OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL  
20 AFFILIATE OF A PERSON THAT MANUFACTURES A PRESCRIPTION DRUG THAT  
21 IS SOLD IN THIS STATE.

22 (d) "PRESCRIPTION DRUG" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS SET FORTH  
23 IN SECTION 12-280-103 (42); EXCEPT THAT THE TERM INCLUDES ONLY  
24 PRESCRIPTION DRUGS THAT ARE INTENDED FOR HUMAN USE.

25 (e) (I) "REBATE" MEANS A PRICE CONCESSION, A PRICE DISCOUNT,  
26 OR A DISCOUNT OF ANY SORT MADE BY A MANUFACTURER THAT REDUCES  
27 PAYMENTS FOR A PRESCRIPTION DRUG, INCLUDING:

- 1 (A) A PARTIAL REFUND OF PAYMENTS;
- 2 (B) A REDUCTION IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT PAID FOR A  
3 PRESCRIPTION DRUG;
- 4 (C) A PERFORMANCE-BASED FINANCIAL REWARD;
- 5 (D) A FINANCIAL REWARD FOR INCLUDING A PRESCRIPTION DRUG  
6 IN A PREFERRED DRUG LIST OR FORMULARY OR PREFERRED FORMULARY  
7 POSITION;
- 8 (E) A MARKET SHARE INCENTIVE PAYMENT OR REWARD;
- 9 (F) A COMMISSION; OR
- 10 (G) ANY OTHER COMPENSATION PAID BY A SUBSIDIARY, ANY  
11 AFFILIATED HOLDING OR PARENT COMPANY, OR ANY OTHER  
12 ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATE OF A PERSON THAT MANUFACTURES A  
13 PRESCRIPTION DRUG THAT IS SOLD IN THIS STATE.

14 (II) THE COMMISSIONER MAY PROMULGATE RULES TO FURTHER  
15 DEFINE "REBATE" FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION.

16 (3) FOR EACH HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN ISSUED OR RENEWED ON OR  
17 AFTER JANUARY 1, 2024, A HEALTH INSURER OR PBM SHALL  
18 DEMONSTRATE TO THE DIVISION THAT:

19 (a) ONE HUNDRED PERCENT OF THE ESTIMATED REBATES RECEIVED  
20 OR TO BE RECEIVED IN CONNECTION WITH DISPENSING OR ADMINISTERING  
21 PRESCRIPTION DRUGS INCLUDED IN THE HEALTH INSURER'S FORMULARY  
22 FOR THAT PLAN YEAR ARE USED TO REDUCE COSTS;

23 (b) FOR SMALL GROUP AND LARGE EMPLOYER PLANS, ALL REBATES  
24 ARE USED TO REDUCE EMPLOYER AND INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYEE COSTS; AND

25 (c) FOR INDIVIDUAL HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS, ALL REBATES ARE  
26 USED TO REDUCE CONSUMERS' PREMIUMS AND DEFINED COST SHARING FOR  
27 PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND THAT THE MAJORITY OF REBATES WILL BE USED

1 TO MAXIMIZE THE REDUCTION OF DEFINED COST SHARING FOR CONSUMERS  
2 AT THE POINT OF SALE.

3 (4) A HEALTH INSURER OR PBM SHALL NOT REDUCE A DISPENSING  
4 PHARMACY'S PAYMENT OR REIMBURSEMENT BASED ON A COVERED  
5 PERSON'S COST-SHARING PRICE REDUCTION. A HEALTH INSURER OR PBM  
6 SHALL NOT INCLUDE IN A CONTRACT WITH A DISPENSING PHARMACY A  
7 PROVISION THAT WOULD LOWER THE PHARMACY REIMBURSEMENT BASED  
8 ON A COVERED PERSON'S COST-SHARING PRICE REDUCTION.

9 (5) THE DIVISION SHALL EVALUATE HOW REBATES MAY BE  
10 APPLIED TO REDUCE A COVERED PERSON'S DEFINED COST SHARING FOR  
11 EACH PRESCRIPTION DRUG AT THE POINT OF SALE AND HOW REBATES MAY  
12 BE APPLIED TO REDUCE DEFINED COST SHARING, TAKING INTO  
13 CONSIDERATION THE AVERAGE PREMIUM IMPACTS. REGARDLESS OF THE  
14 RESULTS OF THE EVALUATION IN THIS SUBSECTION (5), A HEALTH INSURER  
15 OR PBM SHALL COMPLY WITH SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION.

16 (6) EACH HEALTH INSURER AND PBM SHALL REPORT ANNUALLY,  
17 IN A MANNER DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSIONER, THE FOLLOWING  
18 INFORMATION:

19 (a) PROSPECTIVE, ACTUARIALLY SOUND ESTIMATES OF ALL  
20 REBATES TO BE RECEIVED DURING THE UPCOMING PLAN YEAR,  
21 SEGREGATED BY TIERS THAT ARE IDENTIFIED IN THE HEALTH INSURER'S  
22 FORMULARY FOR HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS. THE ESTIMATES SHALL INCLUDE:

23 (I) FOR INDIVIDUAL, SMALL GROUP, AND LARGE EMPLOYER PLANS,  
24 THE ESTIMATED AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF REBATES THE HEALTH INSURER  
25 EXPECTS TO RECEIVE, IN DOLLARS AND AS A PERCENTAGE OF EXPECTED  
26 TOTAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG CLAIM EXPENDITURES;

27 (II) FOR SMALL GROUP AND LARGE EMPLOYER PLANS, THE

1 ESTIMATED AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF REBATES THE HEALTH INSURER  
2 EXPECTS TO PASS ON TO EMPLOYERS FOR EMPLOYERS TO REDUCE COSTS  
3 FOR COVERED PERSONS, IN DOLLARS AND AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL  
4 REBATES RECEIVED;

5 (III) FOR INDIVIDUAL PLANS, THE ESTIMATED AGGREGATE AMOUNT  
6 OF REBATES THAT WILL BE USED TO REDUCE DEFINED COST SHARING FOR  
7 COVERED PERSONS;

8 (IV) FOR INDIVIDUAL, SMALL GROUP, AND LARGE EMPLOYER  
9 PLANS, THE ESTIMATED AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF REBATES THE HEALTH  
10 INSURER EXPECTS TO USE TO REDUCE PREMIUMS FOR EMPLOYERS AND  
11 COVERED PERSONS; AND

12 (V) ANY OTHER DATA, AS SPECIFIED BY RULE OF THE  
13 COMMISSIONER, THAT IS NECESSARY TO DETERMINE A HEALTH INSURER'S  
14 OR PBM'S COMPLIANCE WITH SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION.

15 (b) ACTUAL AMOUNTS OF REBATES FOR ALL REBATES RECEIVED  
16 DURING THE PAST PLAN YEAR, SEGREGATED BY TIERS THAT ARE  
17 IDENTIFIED IN THE HEALTH INSURER'S FORMULARY FOR HEALTH BENEFIT  
18 PLANS. THESE ACTUAL AMOUNTS SHALL INCLUDE:

19 (I) FOR INDIVIDUAL, SMALL GROUP, AND LARGE EMPLOYER PLANS,  
20 THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF REBATES RECEIVED BY THE HEALTH INSURER,  
21 IN DOLLARS AND AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG CLAIM  
22 EXPENDITURES;

23 (II) FOR SMALL GROUP AND LARGE EMPLOYER PLANS, THE  
24 AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF REBATES PASSED ON TO EMPLOYERS FOR  
25 EMPLOYERS TO REDUCE COSTS FOR COVERED PERSONS, IN DOLLARS AND  
26 AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL REBATES RECEIVED;

27 (III) FOR INDIVIDUAL PLANS, THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF



1 REBATES USED TO REDUCE DEFINED COST SHARING FOR COVERED  
2 PERSONS;

3 (IV) FOR INDIVIDUAL, SMALL GROUP, AND LARGE EMPLOYER  
4 PLANS, THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF REBATES USED TO REDUCE PREMIUMS  
5 FOR EMPLOYERS AND COVERED PERSONS; AND

6 (V) ANY OTHER DATA, AS SPECIFIED BY RULE OF THE  
7 COMMISSIONER, THAT IS NECESSARY TO DETERMINE A HEALTH INSURER'S  
8 OR PBM'S COMPLIANCE WITH SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION.

9 (c) AN EXPLANATION AND DEMONSTRATION OF HOW DIFFERENCES  
10 IN ACTUARIALLY SOUND ESTIMATES OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG REBATES TO  
11 BE RECEIVED DURING A PLAN YEAR AND ACTUAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG  
12 REBATES RECEIVED DURING THAT PLAN YEAR ARE ACCOUNTED FOR IN  
13 MEDICAL-LOSS RATIO REFUND CALCULATIONS FOR THAT PLAN YEAR;

14 (d) FOR SMALL GROUP AND LARGE EMPLOYER PLANS,  
15 ADMINISTRATIVE FEES, DISPENSING FEES, DRUG UTILIZATION REVIEW FEES,  
16 AND THE AVERAGE REIMBURSEMENT FOR NONSPECIALTY, BRAND-NAME  
17 PRESCRIPTION DRUGS; AND

18 (e) AN ACTUARIAL CERTIFICATION THAT ATTESTS THAT:

19 (I) THE HEALTH INSURER OR PBM IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH  
20 SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION; AND

21 (II) THE DATA REPORTED AS REQUIRED BY THIS SUBSECTION (5) IS  
22 ACCURATE.

23 (7) THE DIVISION MAY USE DATA FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF  
24 HEALTH CARE POLICY AND FINANCING, THE ALL-PAYER CLAIM DATABASE  
25 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 25.5-1-204, AND OTHER SOURCES TO VERIFY THAT  
26 A HEALTH INSURER OR PBM IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SECTION.

27 (8) THE DIVISION SHALL NOT DISCLOSE OR OTHERWISE MAKE

1 AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC ANY MATERIALS OR INFORMATION RECEIVED  
2 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION THAT CONTAINS TRADE SECRETS OR  
3 CONFIDENTIAL OR PROPRIETARY DATA THAT IS NOT OTHERWISE  
4 AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

5 (9) THIS SECTION DOES NOT PROHIBIT A HEALTH INSURER FROM  
6 DECREASING COST-SHARING AMOUNTS OR PREMIUMS BY AN AMOUNT  
7 GREATER THAN THE AMOUNT REQUIRED IN SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS  
8 SECTION.

9 (10) THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTIONS (3) AND (6) OF THIS  
10 SECTION APPLY TO A SELF-FUNDED HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN AND ITS PLAN  
11 MEMBERS ONLY IF THE ENTITY THAT PROVIDES THE PLAN ELECTS TO BE  
12 SUBJECT TO SUBSECTIONS (3) AND (6) OF THIS SECTION FOR ITS MEMBERS  
13 IN COLORADO.

14 (11) FOR EACH HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN ISSUED OR RENEWED ON OR  
15 AFTER JANUARY 1, 2024, THE CONTRACTED REIMBURSEMENT AMOUNT  
16 PAID BY THE HEALTH INSURER OR THE PBM TO THE CONTRACTED  
17 PHARMACY FOR A PRESCRIPTION DRUG MUST BE THE SAME AS THE CHARGE  
18 BY THE HEALTH INSURER OR THE PBM TO THE RESPECTIVE INDIVIDUAL  
19 HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN OR EMPLOYER-SPONSORED PLAN FOR THAT DRUG.

20 (12) THE COMMISSIONER SHALL PROMULGATE RULES TO  
21 IMPLEMENT AND ENFORCE THIS SECTION.

22 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 25.5-5-513** as  
23 follows:

24 **25.5-5-513. Pharmacy benefits - prescription drugs - rebates**  
25 **- analysis.** (1) BEGINNING IN 2023, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL, IN  
26 COLLABORATION WITH THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ALL-PAYER CLAIMS  
27 DATABASE DESCRIBED IN SECTION 25.5-1-204, CONDUCT AN ANNUAL

1 ANALYSIS OF THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG REBATES RECEIVED IN THE  
2 PREVIOUS CALENDAR YEAR, BY HEALTH INSURANCE CARRIER AND  
3 PRESCRIPTION DRUG TIER. THE ANALYSIS, USING DATA FROM THE  
4 ALL-PAYERS CLAIM DATABASE AND OTHER SOURCES, MUST BE COMPLETED  
5 ON OR BEFORE MAY 1 OF EACH YEAR.

6 (2) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE THE ANALYSIS  
7 CONDUCTED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION AVAILABLE TO THE  
8 PUBLIC ON AN ANNUAL BASIS.

9 **SECTION 8. Act subject to petition - effective date -**  
10 **applicability.** (1) This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following  
11 the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the  
12 general assembly; except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant  
13 to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an  
14 item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item,  
15 section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the  
16 general election to be held in November 2022 and, in such case, will take  
17 effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the  
18 governor.

19 (2) Section 1 of this act applies to health benefit plans issued or  
20 renewed on or after January 1, 2023.

21 (3) Sections 2 through 6 of this act apply to health benefit plans  
22 issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2024.