FINAL BILL REPORT
SSB 6183

C 48 L 26
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Concerning coverage for HIV antiviral drugs.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Liias, Harris, Bateman, Cleveland, Wilson, C., Dhingra, Hasegawa, Nobles, Pedersen, Saldaña, Stanford, Trudeau and Valdez).

Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care
House Committee on Health Care & Wellness

Background: HIV antiviral drugs are used for treatment for those with HIV to suppress the virus, and for prevention by HIV-negative individuals at risk of contracting HIV. The Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved a variety of single and multi-pill options required to be taken daily, as well as longer lasting injectable drugs typically lasting one to two months and new versions lasting up to six months.

Prior authorization is the requirement that a health care provider seek approval of a drug, procedure, or test before seeking reimbursement from a health carrier. Step therapy is a form of prior authorization whereby health carriers approve a prescription drug or class of drugs for a medical condition based on cost effectiveness and treatment best practices. Step therapy requires the patient to begin treatment with the approved drug. If the patient fails to respond to the drug or experiences an adverse effect, then coverage is allowed for another drug prescribed by the patient's health care provider.

Summary: For health plans, including plans offered to public employees, issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2027, a health carrier shall provide coverage for all FDA approved HIV antiviral drugs without prior authorization, step therapy, or any other utilization management protocols.

If the FDA has approved one or more therapeutic equivalents of a drug, device, or product for the prevention or treatment of HIV, this act does not require a health plan to cover all of the therapeutically equivalent versions without prior authorization, step therapy, or any

---

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

other utilization management protocols, if at least one therapeutically equivalent version is covered without prior authorization, step therapy, or any other utilization management protocols.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	48	0
House	93	1

Effective: June 11, 2026