

House Bill 367 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Carter of the 159th, Stephens of the 164th, Parrish of the 156th, Parham of the 141st, and Jerguson of the 22nd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 24 of Title 33 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to insurance generally, so as to define certain terms; to provide for health insurance
3 coverage for nonformulary drug products for a limited supply under certain conditions; to
4 provide for statutory construction; to provide for enforcement by the Commissioner of
5 Insurance; to provide for monetary penalties for violations; to provide for related matters; to
6 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Article 1 of Chapter 24 of Title 33 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
10 insurance generally, is amended by inserting a new Code section to read as follows:

11 "33-24-59.13.

12 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

13 (1) 'Health benefit plan' means any individual or group plan, policy, or contract for health
14 care services issued, delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed in this state by a health
15 benefit plan provider, including, but not limited to, those policies, plans, or contracts
16 executed by the State of Georgia on behalf of state employees under Article 1 of Chapter
17 18 of Title 45.

18 (2) 'Health benefit plan provider' means an insurance company, carrier, or similar
19 third-party payor plan.

20 (b) Every health benefit plan that is delivered, issued, executed, or renewed in this state
21 or approved for issuance or renewal in this state by the Commissioner on or after July 1,
22 2008, which provides coverage for prescription drugs shall ensure that if a physician
23 prescribes a drug product that is not on the health benefit plan provider's formulary for the
24 patient's health benefit plan, a pharmacist may dispense such prescribed drug product and
25 the health benefit plan provider shall cover such nonformulary drug product for up to a
26 ten-day supply for each prescription but not more than once per year in order to allow time

1 for the pharmacist or patient to contact the physician for approval of an alternate drug
2 product that is on the formulary or to obtain prior approval from the health benefit plan
3 provider or its pharmacy benefits manager for the prescribed drug product; provided,
4 however, that the health benefit plan provider shall not impose any penalty against the
5 pharmacist or the patient, including, but not limited to, a higher copayment on the
6 nonformulary drug product, for complying with the requirements of this subsection.

7 (c) Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to require any health benefit plan to
8 include coverage for prescription drugs.

9 (d) The Commissioner is authorized to enforce this Code section and shall be authorized
10 to impose on a health benefit plan provider a monetary penalty of \$500.00 for a violation
11 of this Code section. If a monetary penalty is imposed by the Commissioner on a health
12 benefit plan provider pursuant to this subsection, the health benefit plan provider may
13 invoke the right to an administrative hearing in accordance with Chapter 2 of Title 33.
14 Further, the Commissioner may exercise the powers granted by Code Section 33-2-24 and
15 any other provision of this title."

16 **SECTION 2.**

17 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.