



**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE**  
**Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **SB 444** SLS 24RS 762  
 Bill Text Version: **ENROLLED**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> May 31, 2024	1:02 PM	<b>Author:</b> JACKSON-ANDREWS
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Insurance and Office of Group Benefits		<b>Analyst:</b> Patrice Thomas
<b>Subject:</b> PBMs Reimburse Acquisition Costs to Pharmacy/Pharmacists		

PHARMACEUTICALS EN INCREASE SG EX See Note Page 1 of 1  
 Provides relative to pharmaceutical reimbursements. (gov sig)

Effective 1/01/2025, proposed law prohibits pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), or persons acting on behalf of PBMs, from reimbursing a pharmacy or pharmacist an amount less than the acquisition cost for any covered drug, device, or service. Proposed law limits the applicability to a pharmacy or pharmacist that does not own more than 5 shares or a 5% interest in a pharmaceutical wholesale group purchasing organization or vendor. Proposed law requires the PBM to provide the information to the Commissioner of Insurance without a request from the commissioner. Proposed law requires the Office of Group Benefits (OGB) to report to the House Committee on Insurance and Senate Committee on Insurance on or before March 31, 2025.

EXPENDITURES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Agy. Self-Gen.	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Annual Total</b>						
REVENUES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

The proposed law may result in a workload increase, which requires additional positions in the LA Department of Insurance (LDI). Also, LDI reports the proposed law will likely result in an indeterminable increase in premiums within the commercial health insurance market. Beginning January 1, 2025, the proposed law requires Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) to reimburse pharmacies an amount not less than the acquisition costs for a coverage drug, device, or service. Also, the proposed law amends the existing administrative appeal procedure for pharmacies to challenge the maximum allowable costs (MAC) for a specific prescription drug.

**LA Department of Insurance (Self-Generated Revenue Impact)** - LDI reports there may be a significant workload increase, which may require additional positions, to adjudicate increased administrative appeals that may be filed under this measure.

**Private Insurance Impact/insurance Exchanges Impact** - According to LDI, the proposed law is anticipated to increase premiums in the commercial insurance market, including the state insurance exchanges. Under the administrative appeal procedure in existing law, pharmacies may challenge the MAC lists of PBMs for a specific drug. The appeal procedures effectively serve as a requirement that PBMs reimburse no less than the acquisition costs. Under the proposed law, PBMs will be required to reimburse pharmacies no less than the acquisition price paid by the pharmacy purchasing the prescription drug. LDI reports this removes the incentive for pharmacies to seek the lowest available wholesale price by requiring PBMs to reimburse at no less than the actual acquisition cost of a drug. This will increase drug costs for PBMs, which will increase premiums paid by employers and individuals.

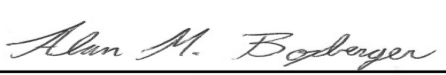
*Note: The material impact of this proposed law depends on the drug pricing model used by the PBM. The majority of commercial health insurance PBMs use an average wholesale price (AWP) or spread model; therefore, this measure will significantly increase pharmacy claim costs. Also, if this proposed law is enacted, the health insurance market will likely shift to a pricing model that mitigates drug and pharmacy claim costs.*

**Office of Group Benefits Impact (Self-Generated Revenue Impact)** - The proposed law is not anticipated to have an impact on OGB. The LFO assumes OGB will utilize existing staff and resources to report to legislative committees by 3/31/25.

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

<u>Senate</u>	<u>Dual Referral Rules</u>	<u>House</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}		<input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}
<input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}		<input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

  
**Alan M. Boxberger**  
**Legislative Fiscal Officer**