



# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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## Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

**Bill:** S.B. 265 of the 132nd G.A.

**Status:** As Introduced

**Sponsor:** Sen. Dolan

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

**Subject:** To permit certain health insurers to provide payment or reimbursement for services lawfully provided by a pharmacist and to recognize pharmacist services in certain other laws

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### State & Local Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on the state and political subdivisions.

### Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill would allow a health plan issuer to provide payment or reimbursement for services lawfully provided by a pharmacist for covered patients and services. Under the bill, a health plan issuer may provide payment or reimbursement if both of the following conditions are met: (1) the pharmacist provided a health care service to a patient in accordance with Chapter 4729. of the Revised Code, including managing an individual's drug therapy under a consult agreement with a physician, administering adult immunizations, or administering certain drugs by injection, and (2) the patient is covered by an individual or group policy, contract, or agreement offered by a health insurer that provides for payment or reimbursement of such services. The bill applies to health insuring corporations (HICs), sickness and accident insurers, public employee benefit plans, and multiple employer welfare arrangements that are delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed in Ohio on or after the bill's effective date.

The bill would prohibit sickness and accident insurers from refusing to reimburse pharmacists for providing medical services that they are legally allowed to perform if the services are covered under the patient's health plan.

The bill also would make other changes, including explicitly authorizing pharmacists to provide certain specified services, authorizing pharmacists to be hired by certain entities, and includes pharmacists and pharmacies in the definition of "provider" for the purposes of contracting entities and health care contracts.

### Fiscal effect

Most of the provisions of the bill are permissive. The exception is the prohibition against refusing to reimburse pharmacists for performing covered services. Because they are covered services, it seems likely the patient would acquire the services from some source. Moreover, other medical providers who might have provided the service

would likely have been reimbursed at similar, and possibly higher, reimbursement rates. In fact, the bill specifies that in cases when the pharmacist is working together with another medical provider in providing a service, the total fees charged for the service may not exceed the amount that would have been charged by the other medical provider.

The bill would have no direct fiscal effect on the state and local governments unless an insurer is currently not permitted to reimburse a pharmacist for performing these services. If that is the case, it is possible that the bill could reduce insurers' costs of paying benefits for the services. That in turn might reduce the costs for the state and local governments to provide health benefits to employees and their beneficiaries.

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