

MAR 10 2017

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ESTABLISH AND CONVENE A
MEDICATION SYNCHRONIZATION WORKING GROUP TO EXPLORE AND
PROPOSE LEGISLATION.

1 WHEREAS, medication synchronization improves patient
2 health, reduces costs to insurers, and promotes efficient
3 workflow in pharmacies by allowing pharmacists and patients to
4 work together to synchronize a patient's medications for pick-up
5 on the same day each month; and
6

7 WHEREAS, studies of more than 6,500 patients enrolled in
8 pilot programs show that medication adherence rates can be
9 greatly improved with appointment-based medication
10 synchronization, particularly for patients requiring long-term
11 maintenance medications; and
12

13 WHEREAS, synchronization simplifies therapeutic regimens
14 and improves access to care for patients living in rural areas
15 and for patients with limited means of transportation; and
16

17 WHEREAS, pharmacists are well-trained to proactively manage
18 a patient's medication-related needs and medication
19 synchronization allows pharmacists to provide medication therapy
20 management and other types of clinical services to patients with
21 greater success because pharmacies are easily accessible; and
22

23 WHEREAS, medication synchronization benefits payers because
24 it improves clinical quality by increasing adherence for
25 members, and payers therefore achieve higher stars ratings and
26 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services bonus and rebate
27 payments; and
28

29 WHEREAS, 19 states, including Washington, Oregon, Nevada,
30 Idaho, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Missouri, Louisiana,



1 Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Maine,
2 Vermont, Connecticut, and New Jersey have approved medication
3 synchronization for commercial patients; and
4

5 WHEREAS, of the 19 states that have approved medication
6 synchronization there are 14 states that are poised to pass
7 medication synchronization legislation, with five more states
8 considering legislation in 2017; now, therefore,
9

10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the
12 House of Representatives concurring, that the Director of Health
13 is requested to establish a medication synchronization working
14 group to suggest legislation to be introduced in the 2018
15 Regular Session; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health is
18 requested to invite two representatives from the retail pharmacy
19 community, one representative from the community pharmacy
20 association, one representative from the health insurance
21 industry, and one representative of the Board of Pharmacy to
22 become members of the working group; and
23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the medication synchronization
25 working group is requested to:
26

- 27 (1) Meet regularly to gather information about medication
28 synchronization practices across the nation with the
29 goal of formulating a medical synchronization program
30 for the State;
31
- 32 (2) Review and recommend implementation of best practices
33 learned from other jurisdictions and discuss emerging
34 policies and regulations with respect to, but not
35 limited to, 90-day fills, pharmacist dispensing fees,
36 and patient copays;
37
- 38 (3) Recommend any pharmacy staff education including
39 pharmacist continuing education requirements, as
40 necessary; and



(4) Draft proposed legislation to create standards for medication synchronization programs in Hawaii; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the medication synchronization working group is requested to submit a written report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2018; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health; Chair of the House Committee on Health; Director of Health; and Chairperson of the Board of Pharmacy.

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