
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE DIRECTOR 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

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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

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

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

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24 WHEREAS, medication synchronization benefits payers because
25 it improves clinical quality by increasing adherence for
26 members, and payers therefore achieve higher star ratings and
27 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services bonus and rebate
28 payments; and
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1 WHEREAS, 19 states, including Washington, Oregon, Nevada,
2 Idaho, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Missouri, Louisiana,
3 Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Maine,
4 Vermont, Connecticut, and New Jersey, have approved medication
5 synchronization for commercial patients; and
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7 WHEREAS, of the 19 states that have approved medication
8 synchronization, 14 are poised to pass medication
9 synchronization legislation, with five more states considering
10 legislation in 2017; now, therefore,
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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
13 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
14 of 2017, the Senate concurring, that the Director of Health is
15 requested to establish a medication synchronization working
16 group to explore and propose legislation; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health is
19 requested to invite two representatives from the retail pharmacy
20 community, one representative from the community pharmacy
21 association, one representative from the health insurance
22 industry, one representative from Kaiser Permanente, and one
23 representative of the Board of Pharmacy to become members of the
24 working group; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the medication synchronization
27 working group is requested to:
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- 29 (1) Meet regularly to gather information about medication
30 synchronization practices across the nation with the
31 goal of formulating a medication synchronization
32 program for the State;
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- 34 (2) Review and recommend implementation of best practices
35 learned from other jurisdictions and discuss emerging
36 policies and regulations with respect to but not
37 limited to 90-day fills, pharmacist dispensing fees,
38 and patient copays;
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- 40 (3) Recommend any pharmacy staff education, including
41 pharmacist continuing education requirements, as
42 necessary; and
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1 (4) Draft proposed legislation to create standards for
2 medication synchronization programs in Hawaii; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the medication synchronization
5 working group is requested to submit a written report of its
6 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
7 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
8 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2018; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
11 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,
12 President of Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and Hospitals Hawaii
13 Region, and Chairperson of the Board of Pharmacy.

