
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 348 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY CHRISTIANA, MILLARD, PICKETT, COHEN, GINGRICH,
V. BROWN, CLYMER, MARSHALL, PASHINSKI AND HESS, JUNE 4, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, JUNE 4, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study
2 the issue of specialty tier prescription drug pricing in
3 Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, Traditional prescription drug benefit plans include
5 a multitiered drug formulary structure; for example, generic
6 drugs are in the first tier, preferred brand name drugs are in
7 tier two, nonpreferred brand drugs are in tier three and
8 specialty tiers are typically the fourth or greater tier; and

9 WHEREAS, Specialty tier drugs are commonly prescription drugs
10 used to treat conditions such as hemophilia, human
11 immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis, multiple sclerosis,
12 lupus, some cancers, rheumatoid arthritis and others; and

13 WHEREAS, The specialty tier changes the patient's cost from a
14 fixed copayment to a coinsurance as a percent of the cost of the
15 drug; and

16 WHEREAS, A patient may pay a copayment which is increased
17 with each tier but is a fixed amount for medications on the
18 lower tiers of an insurance formulary; and

1 WHEREAS, The specialty tiers require the patient to pay a
2 coinsurance or percentage, 20% to 30% or more, of the drug cost;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, The number of specialty drugs is expected to grow
5 more than 25% per year, both in increased utilization and
6 increased unit cost; therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
8 conduct a study of specialty tier prescription drugs to
9 determine the impact on access and patient care; and be it
10 further

11 RESOLVED, That the committee report its findings and
12 recommendations to the House of Representatives no later than
13 January 30, 2014.