

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 201

PRINTER'S NO. 2384

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

January 19, 2011

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Rafferty

HISTORY OF BILL

Referred to BANKING AND INSURANCE, Jan. 19, 2011

Reported as committed, Nov. 15, 2011

First consideration, Nov. 15, 2011

Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, Dec. 14, 2011

Re-reported as amended, Sept. 24, 2012

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 201 amends the Insurance Company Law to provide for access to community pharmacy services.

The bill prohibits a health insurance policy or government program (Medical Assistance, Children's Health Care Program and Pharmaceutical Assistance for the Elderly program) from imposing on a covered individual utilizing a retail pharmacy a copayment, deductible, fee, limitation on benefits or other condition or requirement not otherwise imposed on the individual when using a mail order pharmacy. This prohibition will only apply if the retail pharmacy is willing to accept the same pricing, terms, conditions or requirements related to the cost of the prescriptions and the cost and quality of dispensing prescriptions that the insurer has established for the mail order pharmacy and any of such pharmacy's affiliates, including any affiliated pharmacy benefit manager.

The bill also requires a study to be conducted by the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee eighteen months after the effective date of this section. The study is to evaluate the impact of this section on the access of prescription drugs at both independent and chain retail pharmacies and any impact this section has had on the cost of the prescriptions to consumers and health care plans.

Effective in 120 days and applies to all health insurance policies and government plans issued or renewed on or after that date.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Senate Bill 201 will have no fiscal impact to the Commonwealth.