

1 **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 52**

2 (By Senators Palumbo and Browning)

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6 Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance to study
7 the impacts of cost sharing, coinsurance and specialty tier
8 pricing for prescription medications.

9 Whereas, In response to increasing prescription drug costs,
10 many health plans and prescription drug plans have increased
11 enrollee cost-sharing amounts, instituted coinsurance and created
12 specialty tiers, resulting in increased medication costs for
13 patients participating in those plans; and

14 Whereas, The National Conference of State Legislatures reports
15 that between 2000 and 2009, copayments for insured workers have
16 increased twenty-five percent for generic drugs, eighty percent for
17 preferred drugs, fifty-nine percent for nonpreferred drugs and
18 forty-four percent for fourth-tier drugs or specialty drugs; and

19 Whereas, Many health plans and prescription drug plans now
20 require individuals to pay a coinsurance or percentage of the cost
21 of fourth-tier or specialty tier prescription medications; and

22 Whereas, Fourth-tier or specialty tier medications often
23 include medications for chronic diseases including certain types of
24 cancer, hemophilia, multiple sclerosis, myositis, neuropathy,

1 arthritis, human immunodeficiency virus and other diseases and
2 disorders; and

3 Whereas, Coinsurance, cost-sharing and specialty tier pricing
4 place significant and onerous financial burdens upon insured
5 individuals with chronic health care issues requiring prescription
6 medication which, in many cases, leads to decreased adherence or
7 failure to take medications as prescribed and results in acute
8 incidents and negative health outcomes; therefore, be it

9 *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

10 That the Joint Committee on Government and Finance is hereby
11 requested to study the impacts of cost sharing, coinsurance and
12 specialty tier pricing for prescription medications; and, be it

13 *Further Resolved,* That the Joint Committee on Government and
14 Finance, in conducting said study, determine the impact of cost
15 sharing, coinsurance and specialty tier pricing on access to
16 prescription medications for chronic health disorders and identify
17 and evaluate options for reducing any negative impacts of cost
18 sharing, coinsurance and specialty tier pricing including, but not
19 limited to, statutory limitations on cost sharing obligations for
20 prescription medications; and, be it

21 *Further Resolved,* That the Joint Committee on Government and
22 Finance report to the regular session of the Legislature, 2012, on
23 its findings, conclusions and recommendations, together with drafts
24 of any legislation necessary to effectuate its recommendations;

1 and, be it

2 *Further Resolved*, That the expenses necessary to conduct this
3 study, to prepare a report and to draft necessary legislation be
4 paid from legislative appropriations to the Joint Committee on
5 Government and Finance.