

1 **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 71**

2 (By Senators Hall, McCabe, Minard 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 tier drugs;
19 and

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

23 Whereas, Fourth-tier or specialty tier medications often
24 include medications for chronic diseases, including certain types

1 of cancer, hemophilia, multiple sclerosis, myositis, neuropathy,
2 arthritis, human immunodeficiency virus, and other diseases and
3 disorders; and

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

10 *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

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

14 *Further Resolved,* That the study shall: (1) Determine the
15 impact of cost sharing, coinsurance and specialty tier pricing on
16 access to prescription medications for chronic health disorders;
17 and (2) identify and evaluate options for reducing any negative
18 impacts of cost sharing, coinsurance and specialty tier pricing,
19 including but not limited to statutory limitations on cost sharing
20 obligations for prescription medications; and, be it

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

1 recommendations; and, be it

2 *Further Resolved*, That the expense 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.