

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 810

S.P. 284

In Senate, March 10, 2015

An Act To Allow the Synchronization of Prescriptions

Reference to the Committee on Insurance and Financial Services suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CUSHING of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representative CHACE of Durham and
Senators: MASON of Androscoggin, President THIBODEAU of Waldo, VOLK of
Cumberland, Representatives: PETERSON of Rumford, WARD of Dedham, WOOD of
Sabattus.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 24-A MRSA §2769** is enacted to read:

3 **§2769. Prescription synchronization**

4 **1. Synchronization.** If a health plan provides coverage for prescription drugs, a
5 carrier:

6 A. Shall permit and apply a prorated daily cost-sharing rate to a prescription that is
7 dispensed by a pharmacist in the carrier's network for less than a 30-day supply if the
8 prescriber or pharmacist determines that filling or refilling the prescription for less
9 than a 30-day supply is in the best interest of the patient and the patient requests or
10 agrees to less than a 30-day supply in order to synchronize the refilling of that
11 prescription with the patient's other prescriptions;

12 B. May not deny coverage for the dispensing of a medication prescribed for the
13 treatment of a chronic illness that is made in accordance with a plan developed by the
14 carrier, the insured, the prescriber and a pharmacist to synchronize the filling or
15 refilling of multiple prescriptions for the insured. The carrier shall allow a pharmacy
16 to override any denial codes indicating that a prescription is being refilled too soon in
17 order to synchronize the patient's prescriptions; and

18 C. May not use payment structures incorporating prorated dispensing fees.
19 Dispensing fees for partially filled or refilled prescriptions must be paid in full for
20 each prescription dispensed, regardless of any prorated copay for the insured or fee
21 paid for alignment services.

22 **2. Application.** The requirements of this section apply to all individual and group
23 policies, contracts and certificates executed, delivered, issued for delivery, continued or
24 renewed in this State. For purposes of this section, all contracts are deemed to be
25 renewed no later than the next yearly anniversary of the contract date.

26 **SUMMARY**

27 This bill requires certain health insurance carriers to allow prescriptions to be
28 dispensed by a pharmacist for less than a 30-day supply if it is in the best interest of the
29 patient.