

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
85R10406 BEE-F

S.B. 1076  
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### **AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT**

A “clawback” is a health insurance practice in which a pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) instructs a network pharmacy to collect an elevated copayment amount from a patient and subsequently recoups the excess amount from the pharmacy. The PBM assigns a copayment for a prescription drug that is much higher than the pharmacy’s acquisition charge, then reduces future payments to the pharmacy to recoup most of the copayment. Clawbacks are more often applied on lower-cost generics where there is greater potential to raise the copayment. Neither the initial amount paid by the patient, nor the amount clawed back by the PBM, appear to have any basis in Average Wholesale Price, Wholesale Acquisition Cost, or any other reimbursement or cost standard commonly used by PBMs to set drug prices or reimburse pharmacies.

A pharmacist survey conducted by the National Community Pharmacists Association found that 83 percent of surveyed pharmacists said they experience clawbacks 10 or more times a month.

S.B. 1076 amends Section 1369.001, Insurance Code, to prohibit a health plan issuer or its PBM subcontractor from requiring a covered patient to make a copayment for a covered prescription drug at the point of sale in an amount greater than the reimbursement the pharmacy will retain from the health plan or its PBM.

Allowing pharmacies to sell medications at a cash price lower than the assigned copayment would reduce prescription drug costs in both government and private health plans. It would improve patient adherence by ensuring that medications are sold at their most affordable price, reducing more expensive interventions and hospitalizations.

Prohibiting the practice of clawbacks would allow pharmacies to charge a fair cost for a drug that is still less than the assigned copayment.

As proposed, S.B. 1076 amends current law relating to amounts charged to an enrollee in a health benefit plan for prescription drugs covered by the plan.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Section 1369.001, Insurance Code, by adding Subdivision (2-a), to define “enrollee.”

SECTION 2. Amends Subchapter A, Chapter 1369, Insurance Code, by adding Section 1369.0041, as follows:

Sec. 1369.0041. LIMIT ON PAYMENT REQUIRED UNDER PLAN. Prohibits a health benefit plan (plan) that covers prescription drugs from including a provision that requires an enrollee to make a payment for a prescription drug at the point of sale in an amount greater than an amount that the pharmacist or pharmacy providing the prescription drug may retain from the plan issuer, or the plan issuer's pharmacy benefit manager.

SECTION 3. Makes application of Section 1369.0041, Insurance Code, as added by this Act, prospective to January 1, 2018.

SECTION 4. Effective date: September 1, 2017.