

The Connecticut General Assembly



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Contact: Tess Koenigsmark
860-240-8790

Rep. Cook Votes for Prescription Drug Pricing Bill *Bill passed by House aimed at transparency, lowering costs*

State **Rep. Michelle Cook** (D-Torrington) voted in favor Friday of a bill aimed at creating greater pricing transparency and controlling costs for prescription drugs. [HB 5384](#) passed the House in a unanimous vote and now goes to the Senate.

“The rising cost of prescription drugs is a huge issue for Torrington residents, and particularly for our seniors. Something is wrong when a drug’s price can skyrocket seemingly overnight with no explanation, and this bill brings transparency to the pricing process,” **Rep. Cook** said. “Requiring the disclosure of this information will hold insurers and drug companies accountable in a way that’s never been done before. Medication is not a luxury good – consumers have a right to know what’s driving costs as well as where their hard-earned dollars are going.”

The bill contains five key measures:

- Drug companies must justify price increases when the price of a drug jumps by 20 percent in one year or by 50 percent over three years.
- Companies must disclose information about new drugs in the FDA approval pipeline so the state can better plan for new drug spending on the state employee plan and Medicaid.
- Insurers must include information on the top 25 highest cost drugs, top 25 with greatest cost increases and the portion of a requested premium increase that is a result of drug spending on a plan when they file their rates with the state Insurance Department.
- Pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) must disclose rebates they received from drug companies and the amount of the rebate they passed onto consumers versus the amount they retained. Connecticut would become the first state in the country to require this.
- Insurers must either provide consumers with point of sale rebate at pharmacy counter or confirm that they are using rebates to lower premiums.

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