

The Connecticut General Assembly

House Democrats



Press Release

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For Immediate Release

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CONSUMERS COULD SAVE WITH BIOLOGICAL SUBSTITUTES

State Representative David Arconti (D-Danbury) is pleased to announce the approval of common sense legislation regarding biological drug products. Closely aligned with existing law that allows brand name drugs to be substituted with the generic equivalent, House Bill 7118 passed with overwhelming support, 143-5. The legislation is designed to keep health care costs down while offering options to consumers.

"This bill is part of a bigger strategy to improve patient access to new medicines and grow the life sciences and biopharma industry in Connecticut," said Rep. Arconti. "Biologics are being developed by Connecticut companies in the Greater Danbury area."

This bill authorizes a pharmacist to offer a substitute biological product if the substitute is interchangeable and not prohibited by the prescribing practitioner. It generally extends the existing law's requirements for substituting brand name with generic drugs.

The bill also establishes requirements applicable only to biological and interchangeable biological products. Specifically, before prescribing a biological product, a practitioner must discuss with the patient, or patient's representative, the treatment methods, alternatives to, and risks associated with using a particular biological product. Within 72 hours after dispensing an interchangeable biological product, the pharmacist must inform the prescribing practitioner and patient, or patient's representative, of the substitution. The bill also requires pharmacists to electronically record certain information about the biological products they dispense and make it accessible to prescribing practitioners.

The bill, co-sponsored by Rep. Arconti, was sent to the Senate for consideration.

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