

1 S.186

2 Introduced by Senator Mullin

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Health; health insurance; prescription drugs; eye drops

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require health
7 insurance coverage for the early refill of prescription eye drops.

8 An act relating to health insurance coverage for the early refill of
9 prescription eye drops

10 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

11 Sec. 1. 8 V.S.A. § 4088k is added to read:

12 § 4088k. EARLY REFILL OF PRESCRIPTION EYE DROPS

13 (a) A health insurance plan that provides coverage for prescription eye
14 drops shall provide coverage for any covered individual for a renewal of
15 prescription eye drops when both of the following conditions are met:

16 (1) the covered individual requests a renewal less than 30 days from the
17 later of:

18 (A) the date the original prescription was distributed to the
19 insured; or

1 (B) the date the last renewal of the prescription was distributed to the
2 insured; and

3 (2) the prescribing physician or optometrist indicates on the original
4 prescription that refills are permitted and the renewal requested by the insured
5 does not exceed the number of additional refills authorized.

6 (b) The coverage required by this section shall be subject to the same
7 deductibles, co-payments, coinsurance, or other cost-sharing requirements
8 applicable to other covered benefits under the health insurance plan.

9 (c) As used in this section, "health insurance plan" means any health
10 insurance policy or health benefit plan offered by a health insurer or a
11 subcontractor of a health insurer, as well as Medicaid and any other public
12 health care assistance program offered or administered by the State or by any
13 subdivision or instrumentality of the State. The term includes vision plans but
14 does not include policies or plans providing coverage for a specified disease or
15 other limited benefit coverage.

16 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

17 This act shall take effect on October 1, 2016 and shall apply to all health
18 insurance plans on or after October 1, 2016 on the date a health insurer issues,
19 offers, or renews the health insurance plan, but in no event later than
20 October 1, 2017.