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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 70 Session of  
2013

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INTRODUCED BY MENSCH, ERICKSON, YUDICHAK, VULAKOVICH, GREENLEAF,  
BAKER, BREWSTER, DINNIMAN, VOGEL, SOLOBAY, LEACH, McILHINNEY,  
HUGHES, BROWNE AND ARGALL, MARCH 26, 2013

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REFERRED TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, MARCH 26, 2013

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A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study  
2 the issue of specialty tier prescription drug pricing in  
3 Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, Traditional prescription drug benefit plans include  
5 a multitiered drug formulary structure; for example, generic  
6 drugs are in the first tier, preferred brand name drugs are in  
7 tier two, nonpreferred brand drugs are in tier three and  
8 specialty tiers are typically the fourth or greater tier; and

9 WHEREAS, Specialty tier drugs are commonly prescription drugs  
10 used to treat conditions such as hemophilia, human  
11 immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis, multiple sclerosis,  
12 lupus, some cancers, rheumatoid arthritis and others; and

13 WHEREAS, The specialty tier changes the patient's cost from a  
14 fixed copayment to a coinsurance as a percent of the cost of the  
15 drug; and

16 WHEREAS, A patient may pay a copayment which is increased  
17 with each tier but is a fixed amount for medications on the  
18 lower tiers of an insurance formulary; and

1       WHEREAS, The specialty tiers require the patient to pay a  
2 coinsurance or percentage, 20% to 30% or more, of the drug cost;  
3 and

4       WHEREAS, The number of specialty drugs is expected to grow  
5 more than 25% per year, both in increased utilization and  
6 increased unit cost; therefore be it

7       RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee  
8 conduct a study of specialty tier prescription drugs to  
9 determine the impact on access and patient care; and be it  
10 further

11       RESOLVED, That the committee report its findings and  
12 recommendations to the Senate no later than January 30, 2014.