

Senate Health and Human Services Committee

Sophie Walsh 271-3469

SB 665-FN, requiring pharmacies to charge consumers the lowest available price for prescription drugs.

Hearing Date: February 18, 2026

Time Opened: 11:48 a.m.

Time Closed: 11:56 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Rochefort, Avard, Birdsell, Prentiss and Long

Members of the Committee Absent: None

Bill Analysis: This bill requires pharmacies to charge consumers the lowest available price for prescription drugs.

Sponsors:

Sen. Ricciardi

Sen. Long

Sen. Watters

Sen. Rosenwald

Sen. Fenton

Sen. Gannon

Sen. Reardon

Sen. McConkey

Sen. Rochefort

Sen. Pearl

Sen. Carson

Sen. Birdsell

Sen. Perkins Kwoka

Rep. Kuttub

Rep. W. MacDonald

Rep. Rombeau

Rep. L. Foxx

Who supports the bill: Sen. Ricciardi, Sen. Pearl, Sen. Fenton, Sen. Rosenwald, Jebb Curelop, Cory Stone, Corinne Gordon, Andrew Redlund, Jennifer Favreau, Daniel Richardson, Melanie Kasparian, Mary Gerrish, Samuel Burgess (New Futures), and David Gintz.

Who opposes the bill: Kevin Daigle (NH Grocers Association).

Who is neutral on the bill: Jason Aziz (NHID).

Summary of testimony presented:

Senator Denise Ricciardi, Senate District 9

- This bill will help drive down health care costs by requiring disclosure of the lowest available price for prescription drugs to consumers at the point of sale.
- Senator Ricciardi explained that the idea of this came from concerns raised by constituents about pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) failing to disclose lower cost drug options. While PBMs are often aware of these options, they are not required to disclose them to consumers. Furthermore, many customers are not

aware that they can ask for such options. This allows PBMs to profit from retained rebates, spread pricing, administrative fees, and steering consumers to PBM-owned pharmacies.

- Consumers can receive lower prices by utilizing coupons, buying from the pharmacy directly, choosing therapeutically equivalent alternatives, and not utilizing co-pays.
- The current environment of acquiring prescription drugs promotes ambiguity and shifts unnecessary costs to customers.
- Rather than asking lawmakers to dictate drug prices, this bill allows for fair competition by ensuring transparency for consumers. For an effective market to function, consumers must have the proper information to make decisions.
- Senator Ricciardi provided an example of this issue from a constituent. She was charged \$275 for 9 pills, but if she had known to ask for rebates or coupons, she could have gotten 12 pills for \$25.

Jebb Curelop

- Mr. Curelop stated that he is speaking in support of the bill.
- This bill is about transparency, full disclosure, and driving down health care costs. It will ensure that consumers are informed of existing rebates, discounts, and coupons.
- Pharmacies are currently only required to provide these savings opportunities if asked by a customer. Yet, many consumers are not aware of these options.
- Mr. Curelop explained that he was able to reduce the cost of his medication from \$95.49 to \$35.69 because he knew to ask for these savings opportunities. He emphasized that other granite staters are missing out on these savings due to a lack of transparency.
- This bill instills honesty in the system and gives consumers the right to access existing rebates and discounts.