

HF1807 - 0 - Med. Assist. Coverage of Nonopioid Pain Drugs Req.

Chief Author: Dawn Gillman
 Committee: Health Finance And Policy
 Date Completed: 3/2/2026 2:45:00 PM
 Agency: Human Services Dept

State Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
Expenditures	X	
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X
Information Technology		X
Local Fiscal Impact		X

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions shown in the parentheses.

State Cost (Savings) Dollars in Thousands	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
General Fund	-	-	332	1,662	1,994
Health Care Access	-	-	134	670	804
Total	-	-	466	2,332	2,798
Biennial Total			466		5,130

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
General Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Health Care Access	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

LBO Signature: Kate Schiller **Date:** 3/2/2026 2:45:00 PM
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State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions are shown in parentheses.

*Transfers In/Out and Absorbed Costs are only displayed when reported.

State Cost (Savings) = 1-2		Biennium			Biennium	
Dollars in Thousands	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	
General Fund	-	-	332	1,662	1,994	
Health Care Access	-	-	134	670	804	
Total	-	-	466	2,332	2,798	
Biennial Total			466		5,130	
1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*						
General Fund	-	-	332	1,662	1,994	
Health Care Access	-	-	134	670	804	
Total	-	-	466	2,332	2,798	
Biennial Total			466		5,130	
2 - Revenues, Transfers In*						
General Fund	-	-	-	-	-	
Health Care Access	-	-	-	-	-	
Total	-	-	-	-	-	
Biennial Total			-		-	

Bill Description

This bill requires the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) to not disadvantage the coverage of a nonopioid drug approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment or management of pain compared to the coverage of any opioid or narcotic drug on DHS' Preferred Drug List (PDL). This bill specifies that impermissible disadvantaging includes designating any nonopioid drug as nonpreferred if any opioid or narcotic drug is designated as preferred, and establishing utilization management protocols for a nonopioid drug that is more restrictive than the least restrictive controls applied to an opioid or narcotic drug. Finally, this bill states that these requirements apply to any nonopioid drug approved by the FDA regardless of whether the drugs has been reviewed by the Commissioner or the Formulary Committee for inclusion on the PDL.

Assumptions

DHS assumes the effective date of this legislation to be January 1, 2027.

This proposal would mandate the coverage of nonopioid pain drugs (specifically Journavx) in Medical Assistance (MA). While there is no explicit limit to the number of usage days mandated by this language, the department assumes a limit of 14 days since the FDA has indicated Journavx has not been studied for use beyond 14 days.

Based on department claims data, it is estimated that claim volume for short-acting opiates is around 58,300 per quarter. It is assumed that this claim volume is distributed across the different MA populations proportional to overall pharmacy spending. The average drug cost for these short-acting opiates is \$3.45 per claim (excluding the dispensing fee). The cost of Journavx is \$14.85 per tablet, which equates to \$29.70 per day since Journavx is dosed twice per day. The department assumes Journavx is prescribed for 14 days usage per claim which results in a drug cost of \$415.80 per claim. Finally, the department assumes a 5% shift of utilization from current short-acting opiates to Journavx as a result of this coverage mandate with a one-year phase-in.

DHS does not assume any administrative or IT systems changes associated with this legislation.

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
MA Elderly and Disabled				
Avg monthly claim volume	10,662	10,662	10,662	10,662
Percent substitution	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Avg monthly claim substitution	533	533	533	533
Price difference per claim	\$412.35	\$412.35	\$412.35	\$412.35
Phase-in	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%	100.00%
Total cost (elderly and disabled)	\$0	\$439,666	\$2,198,331	\$2,637,998
Federal share %	50.68%	51.36%	51.36%	51.36%
Federal share	\$0	\$225,813	\$1,129,063	\$1,354,876
State Share	\$0	\$213,854	\$1,069,268	\$1,283,122
MA Adults Without Kids				
Avg monthly claim volume	3,605	3,605	3,605	3,605
Percent substitution	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Avg monthly claim substitution	180	180	180	180
Price difference per claim	\$412.35	\$412.35	\$412.35	\$412.35
Phase-in	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%	100.00%
Total cost (adults)	\$0	\$148,633	\$743,165	\$891,798
Federal share %	90.00%	90.00%	90.00%	90.00%
Federal share	\$0	\$133,770	\$668,848	\$802,618
State Share	\$0	\$14,863	\$74,316	\$89,180

MA Families With Children				
Avg monthly claim volume	5,168	5,168	5,168	5,168
Percent substitution	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Avg monthly claim substitution	258	258	258	258
Price difference per claim	\$412.35	\$412.35	\$412.35	\$412.35
Phase-in	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%	100.00%
Total cost (families)	\$0	\$213,103	\$1,065,515	\$1,278,618
Federal share %	50.68%	51.36%	51.36%	51.36%
Federal share	\$0	\$109,450	\$547,248	\$656,698
State Share	\$0	\$103,653	\$518,266	\$621,920
	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
MinnesotaCare				
Avg monthly claim volume	3,251	3,251	3,251	3,251
Percent substitution	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Avg monthly claim substitution	163	163	163	163
Price difference per claim	\$412.35	\$412.35	\$412.35	\$412.35
Phase-in	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%	100.00%
Total MnCare State Cost	\$0	\$134,049	\$670,243	\$804,292
Fiscal Summary: State Share	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029

MA Elderly and Disabled	\$0	\$213,854	\$1,069,268	\$1,283,122
MA Adults without Children	\$0	\$14,863	\$74,316	\$89,180
MA Families with Children	\$0	\$103,653	\$518,266	\$621,920
Total MA (GF)	\$0	\$332,370	\$1,661,851	\$1,994,222
MinnesotaCare (HCAF)	\$0	\$134,049	\$670,243	\$804,292

Fiscal Tracking Summary (\$000's)						
Fund	BACT	Description	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027
GF	33ED	MA Grants	0	214	1,069	1,283
GF	33AD	MA Grants	0	15	74	89
GF	33FC	MA Grants	0	104	518	622
HCAF	31	MinnesotaCare Grants	0	134	670	804
		Total Net Fiscal Impact	0	466	2,332	2,799
		Full Time Equivalents	0	0	0	0

Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

Local Fiscal Impact

References/Sources

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