

1 reports that between the years 2000 and 2009, copayments for
2 insured workers have increased for specialty-tier drugs; and

3 WHEREAS, Medicare has used specialty tiers since 2006 to
4 help control prescription drug costs on behalf of taxpayers;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Nationally 11% of employers utilize a coinsurance
7 or percentage of the cost of fourth-tier or specialty-tier
8 prescription medications to help control the cost of their
9 prescription drug benefit plans; and

10 WHEREAS, Fourth-tier or specialty-tier medications often
11 include medications for chronic diseases, including certain
12 types of cancer, hemophilia, multiple sclerosis, myositis,
13 neuropathy, arthritis, human immunodeficiency virus, and other
14 diseases and disorders; and

15 WHEREAS, Specialty-tier benefits and step therapy are
16 strategies offered by employer health plans and employer
17 prescription drug plans to incentivize plan participants to
18 utilize lower cost generics or preferred brand alternatives;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Coinsurance, cost-sharing, and specialty-tier
21 pricing place significant and onerous financial burdens upon

1 insured individuals with chronic health care issues requiring
2 prescription medication, in many cases leading to decreased
3 adherence or failure to take medications as prescribed,
4 resulting in acute incidents and negative health outcomes;
5 therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
7 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
8 the Department of Insurance is requested to study the cost of
9 specialty drugs and the availability and accessibility of
10 manufacturer discounts and assistance plans to individuals and
11 employers; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the study shall (1) determine the impacts
13 of cost sharing, coinsurance, and specialty-tier pricing for
14 prescription medications on individuals and employer health
15 plans; (2) determine the percentage of small employers in
16 Illinois providing prescription drug benefits and the impact of
17 the high cost of specialty drugs on the ability of small
18 employers and individuals to continue such prescription drug
19 benefits; (3) identify and evaluate options for reducing the
20 cost of specialty drugs on individuals and small employers; and
21 be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the Department of Insurance shall report to
23 the General Assembly on the first day of the regular session,

1 2012, on its findings, conclusions, and recommendations
2 together with drafts of legislation necessary to effectuate its
3 recommendations; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
5 presented to the Director of Insurance.".