

# Senate Health and Human Services Committee

*Kyle Baker 271-2609*

**SB 64**, establishing a committee to study medication synchronization.

**Hearing Date:** February 2, 2017

**Time Opened:** 9:00am

**Time Closed:** 9:17am

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators Bradley, Avar, Gray, Fuller Clark and Hennessey

**Members of the Committee Absent :** None

**Bill Analysis:** This bill establishes a committee to study medication synchronization.

**Sponsors:**

Sen. Carson

Sen. Gray

Sen. Soucy

Sen. Fuller Clark

Sen. Avar

Rep. Kotowski

Rep. LeBrun

Rep. J. Edwards

Rep. M. McCarthy

Rep. M. MacKay

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**Who supports the bill:** Sen. Sharon Carson, SD#14; Sen. Donna Soucy, SD# 18; Sen. Kevin Avar, SD#12; Sen. Martha Fuller Clark, SD# 21; Jim Demers, Pfizer; Stuart Trachy, NH Chain Drug Stores; Valerie Acres, NH Medical Society

**Who opposes the bill:** None

**Who is neutral on the bill:** None

**Summary of testimony presented in support:**

**Senator Carson – Senate District 14 - Prime Sponsor**

- This bill would create a study committee to find ways for pharmacists to better utilize medication synchronization.
- Having to pick up multiple prescriptions at different times can be burdensome to people, especially the elderly.
- Aligning things such as refill times can better help patients maintain the medications they need.
- Medication is the most cost effective healthcare treatment but many people miss doses or stop taking medicines without discussing it with their doctors.

- 21% of Americans take three or more medications.
- Many pharmacies do not use synchronization for different reasons.
- Would volunteer to serve on the committee.

**Senator Fuller Clark** – How are other states handling this?

**Senator Carson** – There are pharmacies in other states that are doing this whether through statutory requirements or on their own.

**Jim Demers –Pfizer**

- Supports
- Medication synchronization can help patients from missing doses of medications that they need to stay healthy.
- Would help cut down on repeat visits at the doctor's office and keep patients out of the emergency rooms.
- Shared a story about a patient with chronic illnesses that require 40 different prescriptions. Missing a refill could be detrimental to her health. It would be nearly impossible for this person to take all of her medication if there was no synchronization.

**Stuart Trachy – NH Coalition of Chain Drugs Stores**

- Supports
- Many chain stores are already using these programs in 16 different states
- There are some impediments such as prorating of copays for early refills of prescriptions. Sometimes insurance companies do not want to pay for the early refills and it is not always possible for a patient to pay for the medication on their own.

**Summary of testimony presented in opposition:** None

**Neutral Information Presented:** None

**Future Action:** Ought to Pass

KRB

Date Hearing Report completed: February 3, 2017