



**This Bill Analysis
reflects the contents
of the bill as it was
presented in
committee.**

SENATE BILL 335: Pharmacists/Test and Treat/Influenza & Strep.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Commerce and Insurance. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	April 7, 2025
Introduced by:	Sens. Sawrey, Galey, Burgin	Prepared by:	Bill Patterson*
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Committee Co-Counsel

OVERVIEW: *Senate Bill 335 would allow licensed pharmacists to test for and treat influenza and strep infections. It would require insurers to cover healthcare services lawfully provided by pharmacists if those services would have been covered had they been provided by a different healthcare provider. It would also standardize the credentialing process of pharmacists by insurers and clarify that the coverage requirements for prescription drugs apply to third-party administrators and pharmacy benefits managers, as well as insurers.*

CURRENT LAW: Under current law, only immunizing pharmacists under G.S. 90-85.15B and clinical pharmacist practitioners under G.S. 90-18.4 may administer drugs or determine appropriate healthcare for a patient.

BILL ANALYSIS: Senate Bill 335 would allow licensed pharmacists to administer CLIA-waived tests¹ to diagnose individuals with influenza and treat those individuals. Pharmacists would not be allowed to treat any health condition with a controlled substance on Schedules I through IV.

The North Carolina Medical Board and North Carolina Board of Pharmacy, in conjunction with the State health Director would be required to adopt statewide protocols to implement the pharmacist testing and treatment provisions of this bill.

Insurers would be required to cover healthcare services provided by pharmacists acting within their scope of practice if the services would have been covered if they had been provided by another type of healthcare provider. Services provided by pharmacists must be covered on the same terms as for other providers.

Insurers that delegated credentialing of pharmacists to a contracted healthcare facility would have to accept the credentialing for all pharmacists employed by, or contracted with, the facility.

All requirements relating to the coverage of prescription drugs that apply to insurers under Chapter 58 (Insurance) would also apply to third-party administrators and pharmacy benefits managers.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The bill provisions dealing with insurance coverage and requirements would be effective October 1, 2025, and apply to contracts issued, renewed, or amended on or after that date. The remainder of the bill would be effective when it becomes law.

Jason Moran-Bates, counsel to the Senate Health Care Committee, substantially contributed to this summary.

¹ CLIA-waived tests are simple and low-risk diagnostic tests approved by the Food and Drug Administration as safe for use in non-laboratory settings and determined by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to qualify for a waiver under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988.

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