

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2023

H.B. 684  
Apr 18, 2023  
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH40386-NE-109

Short Title: Prescription Eye Drop Early Refill Coverage. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative K. Baker.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS THAT PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR  
3 PRESCRIPTION EYE DROPS TO ALSO PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR EARLY  
4 REFILLS.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. Article 3 of Chapter 58 of the General Statutes is amended by adding  
7 a new section to read:

8 "§ 58-3-295. Coverage for early refills of prescription eye drops.

9 Every health benefit plan offered by an insurer in this State that provides coverage for  
10 prescription eye drops shall not deny coverage for a refill of an eye drop prescription if both of  
11 the following conditions apply:

12 (1) For a 30-day supply, the patient requested the refill after either of the  
13 following:

14 a. The passage of an amount of time after which a patient should have  
15 used seventy percent (70%) of the dosage units of the drug according  
16 to a health care provider's instructions.

17 b. Twenty-one days after either (i) the original date the prescription was  
18 distributed to the insured or (ii) the date the most recent refill was  
19 distributed to the insured.

20 (2) The prescribing health care provider indicates on the original prescription that  
21 additional quantities are needed, and the refill requested by the insured does  
22 not exceed the number of additional quantities needed."

23 SECTION 2. This act becomes effective October 1, 2023, and applies to contracts  
24 issued, renewed, or amended on or after that date.

