

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025

H.B. 820  
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH40265-MRa-101

Short Title: Prescription Eye Drop Early Refill Coverage.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Reeder.

Referred to:

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

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

**"§ 58-3-266. Coverage for early refills of prescription eye drops.**

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

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

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

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

(2) The refill requested by the insured would not exceed the limit, if any, on the  
number of refills for that prescription that the prescribing health care provider  
indicated on the original prescription."

**SECTION 1.(b)** G.S. 135-48.51 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 135-48.51. Coverage and operational mandates related to Chapter 58 of the General  
Statutes.**

The following provisions of Chapter 58 of the General Statutes apply to the State Health Plan:

...

(9a) G.S. 58-3-266, Coverage for early refills of prescription eye drops.

...."

**SECTION 1.(c)** Subsection (a) of this section becomes effective October 1, 2025,  
and applies to contracts issued, renewed, or amended on or after that date. Subsection (b) of this  
section applies as of the start of the next plan year following that date.

**SECTION 2.** Effective July 1, 2025, there is appropriated from the General Fund to  
the Department of State Treasurer the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) in  
recurring funds for each year of the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium to be used to provide the coverage  
required under Section 1(b) of this act.



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1           **SECTION 3.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes  
2 law.