152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE

BILL:	**SENATE BILL NO. 272**
SPONSOR:	**Senator Poore**
DESCRIPTION:	**AN ACT TO AMEND TITLES 18 AND 29 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO HEALTH INSURANCE, AND TITLE 31 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO PHARMACIST CARE.**

Assumptions:

1. This Act is effective upon signature by the Governor. Upon signature, the mandates contained in this Act take effect January 1, 2025.

2. This legislation amends Delaware Code relating to the State Employee Group Health Insurance program ("GHIP") and the Medicaid program by requiring reimbursement paid to a pharmacist for a service or procedure at a rate not less than that provided to nonphysician practitioners provided that the service or procedure is within the scope of practice of the pharmacist and would otherwise be covered by the programs if provided by a health care practitioner. Examples of nonphysician practitioners would include physician assistants and nurse practitioners.

3. The Department of Human Resources, Statewide Benefits Office, currently administers the GHIP through contracted third-party administrators. Additional GHIP plan costs are expected reflecting the increased procedure cost associated with current reimbursement rates paid to pharmacists versus those for other nonphysician practitioners. The cost estimates used in this analysis range from current utilization (low) versus a potential increase in utilization of pharmacists to provide services (high).

4. The Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance of the Department of Health and Social Services does not anticipate additional costs as their most recent Medicaid State Plan Amendment already incorporates this payment provision.

5. Fiscal Year 2025 costs reflect one half year implementation. FY 2026 and FY 2027 costs assume six percent medical inflation.

Cost:

	GHIP
Fiscal Year 2025:	$76,000 - $262,000
Fiscal Year 2026:	$161,000 - $554,000
Fiscal Year 2027:	$171,000 - $588,000

Prepared by Robert Scoglietti
Office of the Controller General