

State Senate passes step-therapy bill

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The state Senate today approved a measure that would make the insurance appeals process easier.

The proposal addresses the so-called “step therapy” process, a cost-saving method employed by insurance companies that makes patients try a number of drugs recommended by the insurer before “stepping” up to cover the cost of the medication recommended by a doctor.

The measure, approved by voice vote, now heads to the Assembly.

Sen. Alberta Darling, the bill’s author, called it a “win-win” for patients and doctors and said it also had benefits for insurers.

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“It leads to better health outcomes, which is good for the insurance companies,” the River Hills Republican said.