



BRANDON M. SCOTT  
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations  
88 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

**SB0989**

March 6, 2024

**TO:** Members of the Senate Finance Committee

**FROM:** Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

**RE:** Senate Bill 989 - Health Insurance – Epinephrine Injectors – Limits on Cost Sharing (Epinephrine Cost Reduction Act of 2024)

**POSITION: FAVORABLE**

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 989.

SB 989 requires certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations to limit the amount a covered individual is required to pay in copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles for a covered prescription epinephrine injector (commonly referred to as an “epi pen”). Under SB 989, people would have to pay no more than \$60 for a pack of two epinephrine injectors, regardless of the type of injector.

Epinephrine injectors are portable drug delivery devices that contain doses of epinephrine used for severe life-threatening allergic reactions. Even when people have insurance, copays, coinsurance, and deductibles can lead to high out-of-pocket costs. A cost review of epinephrine drug prices showed that during 2019, 1 in 13 patients with private health insurance paid more than \$200 for two injectors.<sup>i</sup> Costs vary widely by type and brand of injector, as well as based on whether someone has a health insurance plan with a high deductible.<sup>ii</sup> High costs of epinephrine injectors can prevent patients from carrying this necessary medication, putting their lives at risk.<sup>i</sup> Other states, including Illinois and Colorado, have already passed legislation limiting the cost of a two-pack of epinephrine injectors to a maximum of \$60.<sup>iii</sup> SB 989 protects patients by limiting their out-of-pocket spending for epinephrine which can lead to lives saved.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on SB 989.

---

<sup>i</sup> Chua, KP., Conti, R.M. Out-of-Pocket Spending on Epinephrine Auto-Injectors Among the Privately Insured, 2015–2019. J GEN INTERN MED 38, 538–541 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11606-022-07694-z>

<sup>ii</sup> Illinois General Assembly. (2023). Public Health - (410 ILCS 27/) Epinephrine Injector Act. Retrieved from <https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=3725&ChapterID=35>

<sup>iii</sup> Colorado General Assembly. (2023). HB23-1002 - Epinephrine Auto-injectors. Retrieved from <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb23-1002>