



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Christopher J. Ryan

## Senator Ryan and Senate Majority Pass Legislation to Make Prescription Drugs and Healthcare More Affordable and Accessible

CHRISTOPHER J. RYAN May 21, 2025

| ISSUE: [ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE](#), [ACCESSIBILITY](#), [HEALTHCARE](#)

*Under the “New York State Affordable Drug Manufacturing Act” New York Would Become the Second State in the Nation to Pursue its Own Drug Manufacturing to Lower Costs and Protect Against Short Supplies*

This week, Senator Christopher J. Ryan and the Senate Democratic Majority passed legislation to reduce the cost of prescription drugs, expand healthcare access, and promote health equity for patients in New York. The bills included in this package address critical gaps in drug pricing, patient coverage, and healthcare accessibility, ensuring that New Yorkers have more affordable options and greater transparency in their healthcare choices.

The proposed legislation includes the “New York State Affordable Drug Manufacturing Act.” If signed into law, New York would become the second state in the nation besides California to pursue its own drug manufacturing to lower costs and protect against short supplies. As prescription drug costs, even for generics, continue to rise out of reach for patients and insurers, this legislation directs the Department of Health to identify generic drugs that are high cost or susceptible to shortage for manufacturing partnerships. This legislation would allow New York to pursue its own drug manufacturing and partner with other states moving in this direction to both lower costs and protect against drug shortages.

In addition, today the Senate passed Senator Ryan's bill, [S.6223A](#), permitting an interpreter to remain with a deaf, hard of hearing or nonverbal patient during admission to a hospital.

"With the passage of the New York State Affordable Drug Manufacturing Act, we're putting the health of New Yorkers first. By authorizing our state to manufacture high-cost generic drugs, we're taking direct action to drive down prices, increase supply, and ensure life-saving medications are accessible to all," said Senator Ryan. "This legislation, along with my bill to guarantee interpreter access for deaf, hard of hearing, and nonverbal patients, reflects our commitment to a more affordable, equitable, and inclusive healthcare system for every New Yorker."

The legislation passed this week on prescription and health affordability by the Senate Majority includes:

- **New York State Affordable Drug Manufacturing Act:** This bill, [S.1618](#), sponsored by Senator Gustavo Rivera, would authorize the NYS Department of Health and its Commissioner to establish partnerships directly with drug manufacturers to help significantly lower the cost of drugs for consumers by helping secure more generic alternatives to prescription medications.
- **Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance coverage:** This bill, [S.355A](#), sponsored by Senator Gustavo Rivera, would allow individuals who have comparable coverage to a Medicare Part D plan to also be eligible for Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance coverage (EPIC) if they otherwise qualify.
- **Hospital Closure Notice:** This bill, [S.1226](#), sponsored by Senator Gustavo Rivera, requires public notice and public engagement when a general hospital seeks either to close entirely or to close a unit that provides maternity, mental health or substance use care.

- **Increased Access to Addiction Treatment Centers:** This bill, [S.4950](#), sponsored by Senator Pete Harckham, requires OASAS to set a fee schedule for services provided at OASAS treatments and prohibits denial of treatment on the basis of a person's inability to pay.
- **Disclosure of Pay-for-Delay Agreements:** This bill, [S.3203](#), sponsored by Senator Nathalia Fernandez, would require drug manufacturers to report all pay-for-delay agreements to the Attorney General's Office (AG). The AG's office would subsequently report to other state and outside entities and post the notice in a searchable database on its website. Brand-name drug manufacturers typically use these types of agreements to delay the entry of lower-cost generic drugs into the market.
- **Child Health Plus Access:** This bill, [S.5812](#), sponsored by Senator Luis Sepulveda, prohibits health plans from requiring providers that accept Child Health Plus coverage to accept all other insurance products offered by that health plan in order to participate in the plan's network.
- **Wholesale Prescription Drug Importation:** This bill, [S.371](#), sponsored by Senator James Skoufis, establishes a wholesale prescription drug importation program in New York State, in accordance with federal law, from countries with consumer safety on par with the U.S. drug supply chain system and where significant consumer cost savings are possible.

---

#### RELATED LEGISLATION

---

### 2025-S6223A

- 
- Introduced

- ◦ In Committee Assembly
  - In Committee Senate
- ◦ On Floor Calendar Assembly
  - On Floor Calendar Senate
- ◦ Passed Assembly
  - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
- 

Relates to permitting an interpreter to remain with a deaf, hard of hearing or nonverbal patient during admission to a hospital

March 06, 2025

Senate Floor Calendar

Sponsored by Christopher J. Ryan

Do you support this bill?