

Kentucky 26 RS HB 3 At-a-Glance

What the law does, what it requires, and what to do now

What HB 3 Does

HB 3 (2026) requires Kentucky Medicaid and KCHIP to reimburse pharmacists for services within their scope of practice — the same way commercial insurers have been required to under KRS 304.12-237 since HB 48 (2021). The bill amends **KRS 205.522** and **KRS 205.6485** and mandates the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to seek any federal approvals needed (i.e., a State Plan Amendment to CMS) to implement the requirement.

	Key Information to Know
Sponsor	Rep. Amy Neighbors (R-Edmonton)
Status	Became law April 13, 2026 upon Governor’s signature
Statutes amended	KRS 205.522, KRS 205.6485 (Medicaid and KCHIP reimbursement)
Reimbursement standard	References KRS 304.12-237, the commercial insurer reimbursement statute
Federal approval	Requires CHFS / DMS to seek a State Plan Amendment (SPA) from CMS if needed for implementation
Effective date	July 15, 2026

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

Date	Milestone	What It Means
July 15, 2026	Effective date	Statutory requirement on Medicaid to implement the law begins.
October 12, 2026	SPA submission deadline	DMS must submit the State Plan Amendment to CMS by this date.
Mid 2027	Anticipated go-live for Medicaid	Planned window for credentialing and enrolling as providers. Actual timing depends on SPA approval and MCO readiness.

HB 3 VS. HB 48: SAME CONCEPT, DIFFERENT PAYERS

	HB 48 (2021)	HB 3 (2026)
Payer affected	Commercial insurers	Kentucky Medicaid + KCHIP
Statutory home	KRS 304.12-237	KRS 205.522 & 205.6485 (referencing 304.12-237)
Federal approval needed	No	Yes — SPA to CMS

This resource is informational only and does not constitute legal, billing, or coding advice. While CAPP believes the information to be reliable at the time of publication, pharmacists are responsible for verifying current laws, guidelines, regulations, and payer policies.

Lessons from HB 48 to Apply Now

Implementation of HB 48 continues to be uneven with many systemic and individual pharmacy level barriers. The most common reasons include:

- **Credentialing took longer than expected** with each commercial payer.
- **Documentation that supports clinical care doesn't always support billing** due to differing standards.
- **Practices lacked billing infrastructure** e.g. software, workflow processes, billing support.
- **Pharmacists weren't sure which services they could bill** for in their specific setting.

WHAT TO DO NOW

These steps do not depend on the Medicaid timeline and should happen in parallel with policy finalization.

#	Action	Why It Matters Now
1	Verify or get your NPI	Required for any medical billing. Search NPPES and update if outdated. (See NPI one-pager for more information.)
2	Build CAQH ProView to prepare for credentialing	Most payers won't credential without it. Re-attest every 120 days. (See Credentialing & CAQH one-pager for more information.)
3	Identify which services you'll bill for	Review current services that you offer that could be billed for. (See Scope of Practice one-pager.)
4	Consider board authorized protocols and/or collaborative care agreements	Many advanced services that would allow for higher levels of billing require protocols or collaborative care agreements. Review available options and consider implementation now.
5	Prepare documentation and workflow	Ensure that templates/procedures capture necessary information for billing (See Documentation Pearls one-pager.) Consider utilization of appointment-based models to help with increased service needs.
6	Plan billing infrastructure	Evaluate EHR/billing software options, gain basic understanding of billing processes, decide on ancillary staff roles to help bill for services.

WHERE TO GET UPDATES

- **KY Department for Medicaid Services (DMS):** for general information and policy guidance (chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms)
- **Each MCO's provider portal:** for MCO-specific credentialing and policy updates
- **State Pharmacy Associations:** member communications, advocacy updates, and educational programming
- **CAPP Website (pharmacy.uky.edu/capp):** newsletter communications, implementation resources, one-pagers, CE programming