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## Cox to weigh in on health insurance bills

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By PATRICIA ANSTETT

FREE PRESS MEDICAL WRITER

The Senate Health Policy Committee will continue examining four pending health insurance bills today, with testimony from state Attorney General Mike Cox and a chief deputy commissioner of Michigan's Office of Financial and Insurance Services.

Cox opposes four bills sought by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan to change the way it prices and writes insurance policies purchased by about 400,000 Michiganders without workplace coverage. The number of individual policies is growing as more employers drop or reduce health benefits.

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Fran Wallace, chief deputy commissioner for policy, conduct and consumer assistance, will represent the office. She will describe how insurers file for rate hikes, the system used to assess losses and the oversight the agency provides in assessing whether rate hikes are reasonable and fair, as required by state law.

The hearing is scheduled for 3 p.m. in the Senate Hearing Room, Boji Tower, 124 W. Allegan St., Lansing.

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