

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 713 (Senator Klausmeier)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Pharmacists - Administration of Vaccines - Regulations

This bill repeals the requirement that the State Board of Pharmacy, the State Board of Physicians, and the State Board of Nursing meet to jointly develop and adopt certain regulations regarding vaccinations administered by licensed pharmacists. Instead, the bill requires the State Board of Pharmacy to adopt regulations and requires the three boards to meet to review those regulations. The State Board of Pharmacy must consult with the State Board of Physicians and State Board of Nursing on the regulations rather than obtain their agreement.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill modifies operational requirements and does not impact finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The practice of pharmacy includes administering an influenza vaccination, a vaccination for pneumococcal pneumonia, or herpes zoster, or any other vaccination that has been determined by the State Board of Pharmacy, with the agreement of the State Board of Physicians and the State Board of Nursing, to be in the best health interests of the community. The State Board of Pharmacy, the State Board of Physicians, and the State Board of Nursing must meet annually to jointly develop, adopt, and review regulations to provide for patient safety regarding vaccinations administered by licensed pharmacists.

Per the Code of Maryland Regulations, licensed pharmacists who meet specified training requirements may administer certain vaccinations to individuals age 18 or older if the individual has a prescription from his or her physician. To qualify to administer vaccinations, a pharmacist must successfully complete a certification course approved by the State Board of Pharmacy that includes instruction in the guidelines and recommendations of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding vaccinations and be certified in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation through in-person classroom instruction.

As of February 2011, 2,075 pharmacists were certified by the State Board of Pharmacy to administer vaccinations.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

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mlm/ljm

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