

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 845

(Senator Dyson)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

Pharmacists - Administration of Vaccinations - Children

This bill authorizes licensed pharmacists to administer an influenza vaccination to an individual if the individual is *at least nine years old* and the vaccination is administered in accordance with regulations adopted by the State Board of Pharmacy, *in consultation with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene*, rather than jointly with the State Board of Nursing and the State Board of Physicians. A pharmacist must report any influenza vaccination administered to an individual age 9 to 18 to the Maryland Immunization Registry.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Revision of State Board of Pharmacy regulations can be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful to small business pharmacies from additional reimbursement for administration of vaccinations.

Analysis

Current Law: 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. The State Board of Pharmacy must set reasonable fees for the administration of vaccinations.

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 U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations regarding vaccinations and be certified in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation through in-person classroom instruction.

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

Chapter 412 of 2001 established ImmuNet, Maryland's immunization registry. ImmuNet is a computerized information and reminder system used to improve the timely and appropriate delivery of immunizations; provide a coordinated network for reminder notices when immunizations are due; provide and collect information to be shared by authorized users; and provide a quality indicator for insurers, health care providers, and public health purposes. ImmuNet is a web-based database that is free to all Maryland vaccine providers and is an "opt-out" system; therefore, all immunization information can be entered unless a parent completes a data-sharing refusal form to make their child's record inaccessible. According to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, ImmuNet is currently used in more than 900 provider offices and contains more than 1 million patient records about 12 million vaccinations.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None designated; however, HB 986 (Delegate Hubbard, *et al.* – Health and Government Operations) is identical.

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

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