

Chapter 98

(House Bill 591)

AN ACT concerning

**Health Occupations – Pharmacists – Refills of Prescriptions During State of
Emergency**

FOR the purpose of altering the circumstances under which a pharmacist, during a state of emergency, may refill a prescription for a drug for which the refill has not been authorized; providing that a pharmacist who is working in Maryland, instead of the area declared an emergency, may refill the prescription if the federal or any state government, instead of the federal or this State’s government, declares a state of emergency; increasing the maximum quantity of the drug that may be dispensed under the prescription refill; and generally relating to refills of prescriptions during a state of emergency.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Health Occupations
Section 1–101(a) and (k)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2014 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Health Occupations
Section 12–506(c)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2014 Replacement Volume)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Health Occupations

1–101.

- (a) In this article the following words have the meanings indicated.
- (k) “State” means:
 - (1) A state, possession, or territory of the United States;
 - (2) The District of Columbia; or
 - (3) The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

12-506.

(c) If the federal or [State] A STATE government declares a state of emergency, a pharmacist working in [the area declared an emergency] MARYLAND may refill a prescription for a drug for which the refill has not been authorized if:

(1) As a result of the emergency, the pharmacist is unable to obtain an authorization from the authorized prescriber;

(2) The refill of the prescription is not for a controlled dangerous substance;

(3) The quantity dispensed does not exceed a [14-day] 30-DAY supply or unit of use; and

(4) The pharmacist notifies the authorized prescriber of the refill of the prescription within 7 days of dispensing the drug.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2015.

Approved by the Governor, April 14, 2015.