

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 1031

(Delegate Pena-Melnyk, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

State Board of Pharmacy - Registered Pharmacy Technicians - Exemption for
Pharmacy Students

This bill establishes an exemption from the requirement to register as a pharmacy technician for a pharmacy student who (1) is currently completing the *first* year of a professional pharmacy education program and (2) performs delegated pharmacy acts in accordance with regulations adopted by the State Board of Pharmacy under the direct supervision of a licensed pharmacist.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any change in board activities does not materially affect State finances. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: An individual must be registered and approved by the board as a pharmacy technician before the individual may perform delegated pharmacy acts. A pharmacy technician trainee under the direct supervision of a licensed pharmacist is exempt from the registration requirement, as long as the individual does not perform delegated pharmacy acts for more than six months.

Chapters 564 and 565 of 2014 require an individual to be registered and approved by the board as a registered pharmacy intern before the individual may practice pharmacy under

the direct supervision of a licensed pharmacist. To qualify as a registered pharmacy intern, an individual must (1) be currently enrolled in and have completed one year of professional pharmacy education in an accredited doctor of pharmacy program; (2) be currently enrolled in and have completed one year of professional pharmacy education in a doctor of pharmacy program that is under accreditation review; (3) have graduated from an accredited doctor of pharmacy program and applied for licensure with the board; or (4) be a graduate of a foreign school of pharmacy who has established educational equivalency and passed an examination of oral competency in English. An applicant for a pharmacy intern registration must also apply for a State criminal history records check.

Background: Prior to Chapters 564 and 565, a pharmacy student performing delegated pharmacy acts under the direct supervision of a licensed pharmacist was exempt from the requirement to be registered and approved by the board as a pharmacy technician. A pharmacy student was required to register with the board for a one-time student waiver to work as a pharmacy technician while enrolled in pharmacy school.

The registered pharmacy intern credential replaced the student waiver and was intended to allow pharmacy students to practice pharmacy under the direct supervision of a licensed pharmacist rather than be limited to delegated pharmacy acts. A pharmacy student may work as a registered pharmacy intern beginning in his or her *second* year of pharmacy school and renew the registration once to cover the full four years of pharmacy school. According to the board, there are currently 839 pharmacy interns. The fee to register as a pharmacy intern is \$45.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 815 (Senator Rosapepe) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

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