

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 1168 (Senator Eckardt)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Pharmacists - Administration of the Influenza Vaccination - Age Requirement

This bill lowers the minimum age of an individual to whom a licensed pharmacist may administer an influenza vaccination from age nine to age five.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not directly affect governmental operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Meaningful for small business pharmacists that can administer influenza vaccinations to additional individuals.

Analysis

Current Law: An individual must be licensed by the board before the individual may practice pharmacy in the State. The practice of pharmacy includes administering vaccinations under specified circumstances.

Per Chapters 559 and 560 of 2011, licensed pharmacists may administer an influenza vaccination to an individual who is at least nine years old, provided 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 (DHMH).

Chapters 255 and 256 of 2013 expanded the authority of pharmacists to administer vaccinations. For individuals ages 11 to 17, a pharmacist may administer a vaccination listed in the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) recommended

immunization schedule if the individual has a prescription from an authorized prescriber. For adults, a pharmacist may administer a vaccination listed in CDC's recommended immunization schedule or *Health Information for International Travel* if the vaccination is administered under a written protocol that (1) is vaccine specific and (2) meets criteria established in regulation by DHMH, in consultation with the boards of pharmacy, physicians, and nursing. A prescription is not required to administer these vaccinations to an individual age 18 or older.

Background: CDC recommends that all individuals six months of age and older get a seasonal flu vaccine. There are special vaccination instructions for children ages six months through eight years. Children ages six months through eight years who are getting vaccinated for the first time, and those who have only previously gotten one dose of vaccine, should get two doses of vaccine. The first dose, which "primes" the immune system, should be given as soon as vaccine becomes available. The second dose, which provides immune protection, should be given at least 28 days after the first dose. Children who only get one dose but need two doses can have reduced or no protection.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1262 (Delegate Adams) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Department of Legislative Services

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md/ljm

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