



**Committee:** Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
**Bill Number:** SB 355  
**Title:** Health Occupations – Pharmacists – Administration of Vaccinations  
**Hearing Date:** February 13, 2020  
**Position:** Support

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The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) supports *Senate Bill 355 – Health Occupations – Pharmacists – Administration of Vaccinations*. This bill would lower the age by which pharmacists may administer vaccines to children from 11 to 9 years of age. It also removes the requirement for a prescription. The bill does not affect requirements for parental consent.

MNA supports efforts to increase access to vaccinations, and pharmacists are an important part of that access since they administer vaccinations safely to adults and children 11 years of age and older under current Maryland law. This bill expands that access by lowering the age to 9 years old at which parents may bring a child directly to a pharmacist for a vaccination.

In addition, the bill removes the requirement for a prescription from another health care practitioner. This makes practical sense since all providers are supposed to follow the Center’s for Disease Control’s schedule for vaccination. In addition, since all providers, including pharmacists, must enter vaccination information into ImmuNet, a statewide immunization registry, both pharmacists and primary care providers can determine if vaccinations have been given elsewhere.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.