

CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION AND OBTAINED THE CERTIFICATION THROUGH IN-PERSON CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION.”

Amendment 2

On page 1, line 21, insert “(2) AND” between “PARAGRAPH” and “(3).”

With the proposed amendments, the Board respectfully requests a favorable report on HB 76.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Deena Speights-Napata, MA, Executive Director, at deena.speights-napata@maryland.gov or (410) 764-4753.

Sincerely,



Deena Speights-Napata, MA
Executive Director
State Board of Pharmacy

Enacting HB 76 will increase the number of qualified healthcare professionals who can administer vaccines to children and adults, and thus make vaccines more accessible. It is important to note that receiving a vaccine from a pharmacist is merely an option for patients, not a substitution for an annual check-up. Pharmacists have strong relationships with medical providers and hospitals to refer patients as appropriate. Importantly, HB 76 contains a provision directing a pharmacist to inform a patient under the age of eighteen, and the accompanying adult caregiver, of the importance of well-child visits with a pediatric primary care provider. Services provided by a pharmacist complement, but do not compete with, services provided by physicians, nurse practitioners, and pediatricians. In a state with current and projected health care provider shortages, legislative initiatives that increase access to services performed by properly qualified personnel should be championed.

Proposed language requires a pharmacist to obtain “a current certificate in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation” prior to administering a vaccine to an individual who is at least five years old, while current language requires the Board to adopt regulations that require a pharmacist to verify certification “in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation through in-person classroom instruction” for children and adults. *Compare* § 12-508(a)(1)(iii) with § 12-508(b)(2)(ii). As training obtained through “in-person classroom instruction” is more robust than “a current certificate in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation,” the Board recommends adoption of an amendment designed to remove the conflicting statutory provision.

Proposed language appears to exclude the administration of vaccines to adults from certain statutory requirements. *Compare* § 12-508(a)(1) with § 12-508(a)(2). To ensure a pharmacist adheres to statutorily mandated immunization practices, trainings, certifications, continuing education, record keeping, and notice requirements, the Board recommends adoption of an amendment designed to apply all statutory requirement administration of both adult and child vaccines.

Based on the above-mentioned items, the Board recommends the following amendments:

Amendment 1

On page 2, strike lines 17 – 18 beginning with “THE PHARMACIST HAS” and ending with “RESUSCITATION,” and then insert, “THE PHARMACIST IS CERTIFIED IN BASIC



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY

February 1, 2024

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill 76 – Health Occupations – Pharmacists – Administration of Vaccines

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The State Board of Pharmacy (Board) respectfully submits this letter of support with amendments for House Bill (HB) 76 – Health Occupations – Pharmacists – Administration of Vaccines.

HB 76 permits licensed pharmacists to continue the life-saving work they have been successfully performing since the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services published the Third Amendment to the Declaration under the PREP Act for Medical Countermeasures Against COVID-19 (Third Amendment) on August 19, 2020. The Third Amendment authorized Maryland-licensed pharmacists to order and administer any FDA-approved or FDA-authorized vaccine that the Advisory Council on Immunization Practices recommended to persons ages three through eighteen, COVID-19 vaccines, and COVID-19 tests.

The impact of pharmacist administration of vaccines has been documented in Health Occupations – Pharmacists – Administration of Children’s Vaccines – Study and Temporary Authority¹. The Maryland Department of Health has stated, “ Given the overall benefit of illness prevention, the documentation that vaccinations are one of the most effective public health tools available, the recognition that lack of easy access to preventative services like vaccinations increases health inequities, and the demonstration that Maryland pharmacists can effectively vaccinate children, MDH strongly recommends making permanent the authority for pharmacists to order and administer CDC recommended vaccinations to children ages 3-18.”²

The Board of Pharmacy concurs with the recommendations put forth in the report, and urges the committee to submit a favorable report for HB 76.

¹ This study was required by HB 1040/SB 736 (Chapters 792 and 793 of the Acts of 2021).

² Health Occupations – Pharmacists – Administration of Children’s Vaccines – Study and Temporary Authority, Page 12.

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Maryland Department of Health or the Administration.