

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 334

(Senator Dyson)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Nursing Home Residents - Prescription Drugs - Choice of Pharmacy

This bill provides that a nursing home resident may have a prescription filled by a pharmacy of the resident's choice. If a pharmacy selected by a resident does not dispense medication 24 hours a day and seven days a week, the nursing home must ensure that there is an alternate pharmacy available to a patient for emergency prescription service.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) provides that a nursing home is responsible for providing drugs for its patients. Policies and procedures developed by the nursing home's pharmaceutical services committee may not prohibit or restrict a resident from receiving medications from the resident's choice of pharmacy except that, when the cost of any medication obtained from the resident's choice of pharmacy exceeds the cost of the same or equivalent medication available through the nursing home's pharmacy, the resident is responsible for the additional cost. The pharmacist or agent is responsible for delivering medications to the nursing home.

Members of the resident's family or the resident's sponsor cannot deliver medications to the resident or the nursing home.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Office of Health Care Quality, Boards and Commissions, Medicaid, Board of Physician Quality Assurance), Department of Legislative Services

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cm/jr

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