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By: **Delegates Boutin and Mandel**

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Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Prescription Drug Safety Act**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring certain health practitioners to print or type written  
4 prescriptions in a legible manner, include certain information on the  
5 prescription, and sign the prescription; prohibiting certain health practitioners  
6 from writing prescriptions in a certain manner; authorizing certain licensing  
7 boards to take disciplinary action against certain health care practitioners; and  
8 generally relating to health practitioners and written prescriptions.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article - Health - General  
11 Section 21-220  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
15 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article - Health - General**

17 21-220.

18 (a) A drug that is intended for use by human beings and is in any of the  
19 following classifications may be dispensed by a pharmacist only on a written or oral  
20 prescription from a health practitioner authorized by law to prescribe the drug:

21 (1) A habit-forming drug to which § 21-218(b)(1) of this subtitle applies.

22 (2) A drug that because of its toxicity or other potentiality for harmful  
23 effect, the method of its use, or the collateral measures necessary to its use, is not safe  
24 for use except under the supervision of a health practitioner who is authorized by law  
25 to administer such a drug.

26 (3) A drug that is limited by an approved application under § 355 of the  
27 federal act or § 21-223 of this subtitle to use under the professional supervision of a  
28 health practitioner authorized by law to administer such a drug.

1 (b) (1) A prescription may be written or oral. However, a pharmacist may  
2 not dispense a drug on an oral prescription unless the pharmacist promptly writes out  
3 and files the prescription.

4 (2) A prescription for a controlled dangerous substance within the  
5 meaning of Title 5 of the Criminal Law Article may not be written on a preprinted  
6 prescription form that states the name, quantity, or strength of the controlled  
7 dangerous substance.

8 (3) When a prescription is written, a separate prescription form is  
9 required for each controlled dangerous substance. If a pharmacist is otherwise  
10 satisfied that a prescription is valid the pharmacist may fill the prescription if the  
11 pharmacist promptly writes out and files a prescription for each substance and also  
12 files the original prescription.

13 (4) (I) WHEN A PRESCRIPTION IS WRITTEN, A HEALTH PRACTITIONER  
14 AUTHORIZED BY LAW TO PRESCRIBE A DRUG SHALL:

15 1. PRINT OR TYPE THE PRESCRIPTION IN A LEGIBLE  
16 MANNER SO THAT IT CAN BE READ AND UNDERSTOOD BY THE PHARMACIST FILLING  
17 THE PRESCRIPTION;

18 2. INDICATE ON THE PRESCRIPTION:

19 A. THE DATE OF ISSUANCE, WITH THE MONTH STATED IN  
20 TEXTUAL LETTERS;

21 B. THE NAME OF THE AUTHORIZING PRESCRIBER;

22 C. THE NAME AND STRENGTH OF THE DRUG, WITH THE  
23 STRENGTH WRITTEN IN METRIC UNITS;

24 D. THE QUANTITY OF THE DRUG IN BOTH TEXTUAL AND  
25 NUMERICAL FORMATS;

26 E. THE DIRECTIONS FOR USING THE DRUG;

27 F. THE REASON FOR PRESCRIBING THE DRUG; AND

28 G. FOR CHILDREN UNDER AGE 12, THE AGE AND WEIGHT OF  
29 THE CHILD; AND

30 3. SIGN THE PRESCRIPTION ON THE DATE THAT THE  
31 PRESCRIPTION IS ISSUED.

32 (II) WHEN A PRESCRIPTION IS WRITTEN, A HEALTH PRACTITIONER  
33 AUTHORIZED BY LAW TO PRESCRIBE A DRUG MAY NOT:

34 1. USE LATIN OR APOTHECARY ABBREVIATIONS;

