

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 83 (Delegate Tarrant, *et al.*)
Health and Government Operations

**Health Occupations - Pharmacies - Display of SMARxT Disposal Campaign
Poster**

This bill requires that all pharmacies in the State post a sign produced by the SMARxT Disposal Campaign that includes information on the proper storage and disposal of prescription drugs.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not affect governmental finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: A person must hold a pharmacy permit issued by the State Board of Pharmacy to establish or operate a pharmacy in Maryland. Drugs that are dispensed under a prescription have to include certain label information including the name and address of the dispenser; the serial number of the prescription; the date of the prescription; the name of the prescriber; and if stated in the prescription, the name of the patient, directions for use, and cautionary statements.

If a pharmacy or nonresident pharmacy operates in violation of statute, the board can suspend the pharmacy permit until compliance is met.

Chapter 287 of 2006 established a prescription drug repository program regulated by the board. The program accepts donated prescription drugs for the purpose of dispensing them to needy patients in the State. However, prescription drugs can only be donated if they are in unopened, sealed, and tamper-evident unit dose packaging and have an expiration date at least 90 days from the date the drug is donated.

Background: The SMARxT Disposal Campaign is a public-private partnership between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the American Pharmacists Association, and the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America. The campaign is designed to raise awareness about the effect of improper disposal of medications and to provide guidance regarding proper disposal.

The partnership designed the campaign to encourage people to dispose of unused medication in the household trash, rather than flushing it down the toilet or pouring it down a sink or drain. Specific suggestions regarding medication disposal include sealing it in a plastic bag with other substances such as coffee grounds or sawdust to make it unappealing for animals or children to eat.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

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mlm/mcr

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