

# HOUSE BILL 1558

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HB 1159/17 – HGO

8lr2948

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By: **Delegates Morales, Angel, Barkley, Barron, Cullison, Hayes, Hill, Kelly, Kipke, Kramer, Lam, McDonough, Metzgar, Miele, Morgan, Pena–Melnik, Platt, Robinson, West, K. Young, and P. Young**  
Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2018  
Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Pharmacists – Dispensing of Prescription Drugs – Single Dispensing of Dosage**  
3 **Units**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing, with a certain exception, a pharmacist to dispense, in a  
5 single dispensing and exercising the pharmacist’s professional judgment, a quantity  
6 of a prescription drug that is up to a certain number of authorized dosage units and  
7 does not exceed a certain supply of the prescription drug; providing that this Act does  
8 not apply to a certain controlled dangerous substance, certain prescriptions that an  
9 authorized prescriber prescribes for a patient, or a certain supply of prescription  
10 contraceptives; defining a certain term; and generally relating to pharmacists and  
11 dispensing of prescription drugs.

12 BY adding to  
13 Article – Health Occupations  
14 Section 12–512  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Health Occupations**

20 **12–512.**

21 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “AUTHORIZED PRESCRIBER” HAS THE MEANING**  
22 **STATED IN § 12–101 OF THIS TITLE.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



**(B) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO:**

**(1) A CONTROLLED DANGEROUS SUBSTANCE AS DEFINED IN § 5-101 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE;**

**(2) THE FIRST PRESCRIPTION OR CHANGE IN A PRESCRIPTION FOR A DRUG THAT AN AUTHORIZED PRESCRIBER PRESCRIBES FOR A PATIENT; OR**

**(3) THE FIRST 2-MONTH SUPPLY OF PRESCRIPTION CONTRACEPTIVES DISPENSED UNDER:**

**(I) THE INITIAL PRESCRIPTION FOR THE CONTRACEPTIVES; OR**

**(II) ANY SUBSEQUENT PRESCRIPTION FOR A CONTRACEPTIVE THAT IS DIFFERENT FROM THE LAST CONTRACEPTIVE DISPENSED TO THE PATIENT.**

**(C) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION, A PHARMACIST MAY DISPENSE, IN A SINGLE DISPENSING AND EXERCISING THE PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT OF THE PHARMACIST, A QUANTITY OF A PRESCRIPTION DRUG THAT:**

**(1) IS UP TO THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DOSAGE UNITS AUTHORIZED BY THE PRESCRIBER ON THE ORIGINAL PRESCRIPTION AND ANY REFILLS OF THE PRESCRIPTION;**

**(2) EXCEPT FOR A CONTRACEPTIVE DISPENSED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2019, DOES NOT EXCEED A 90-DAY SUPPLY OF THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG; AND**

**(3) FOR A CONTRACEPTIVE DISPENSED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2019, DOES NOT EXCEED A 6-MONTH SUPPLY OF THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG.**

**(D) A PHARMACIST MAY NOT DISPENSE, IN A SINGLE DOSE, A QUANTITY OF A PRESCRIPTION DRUG THAT EXCEEDS THE LIMIT PRESCRIBED BY A PRESCRIBER WHEN THE PRESCRIBER HAS INDICATED THAT THE PRESCRIPTION BE DISPENSED ONLY AS PRESCRIBED.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2018.