

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 895 (Delegate Sample-Hughes)
Health and Government Operations

Hospitals - Prescription Drugs - Dispensing of Schedule III Drug Prescriptions

This bill requires an accredited hospital to fill and dispense a prescription for a prescription drug that contains a schedule III controlled dangerous substance (CDS) and was prescribed at another accredited hospital in the State.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: This bill does not directly affect governmental operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: Under the Maryland Controlled Dangerous Substances Act, there are five CDS schedules. Substances in schedule III are those that have a lower potential for abuse than substances on schedules I or II, that have a well documented and approved medical use in the United States, and for which evidence has shown that abuse may lead to moderate or low physical dependence or high psychological dependence.

Under the Health-General Article, an “accredited hospital” means a hospital that is accredited by the Joint Commission. The Joint Commission is an independent, not-for-profit organization established in 1951 to evaluate health care organizations that voluntarily seek accreditation. The Joint Commission certifies and accredits nearly 21,000 health care organizations and programs, including approximately 4,477 hospitals nationwide, 62 of which are in Maryland.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Health; The Joint Commission;
Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 12, 2019
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