

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2021 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

House Bill 810 (Delegate Cullison)  
Health and Government Operations

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**Health Occupations - Pharmacists - Laboratory Tests**

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This bill expands the practice of pharmacy to include ordering and administering specified laboratory tests. By January 1, 2022, the State Board of Pharmacy must adopt regulations authorizing a pharmacist to order and administer, without a prescription from an authorized prescriber, laboratory tests that (1) are used for health awareness, including screening and early disease detection; (2) are analyzed in a high complexity clinical laboratory that meets specified federal requirements; and (3) measure biomarkers or any other clinical value that may assist in early detection, prevention, or mitigation of disease.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The board can adopt regulations using existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Meaningful.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** An individual must be licensed by the State Board of Pharmacy to practice pharmacy in the State. The practice of pharmacy includes compounding, dispensing, or distributing prescription drugs or devices; monitoring prescriptions; providing information, explanation, and recommendations to patients and health care practitioners about the safe and effective use of prescription drugs or devices; providing drug therapy management; administering vaccinations; prescribing and dispensing certain contraceptive medications

and devices; and administering a self-administered drug to a patient in accordance with regulations adopted by the board.

To administer vaccinations, a pharmacist must submit a registration form to the board that includes verification that the pharmacist has successfully completed a specified certification course and is certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Chapters 820 and 821 of 2017 expanded the scope of practice for a licensed pharmacist, who meets specified requirements, to include prescribing and dispensing contraceptive medications and self-administered contraceptive devices approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The Drug Therapy Management Program authorizes physicians and pharmacists to enter into a therapy management contract that specifies treatment protocols for patient care. An authorized prescriber who has entered into such an agreement must submit specified documentation to the State Board of Pharmacy. A drug therapy management protocol may authorize the ordering of laboratory tests. A protocol must contain, among other things, monitoring parameters, including laboratory tests for the condition and medication employed.

**Small Business Effect:** Small business pharmacies may order and administer certain laboratory tests under the bill.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** SB 706 (Senator Feldman) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 17, 2021  
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