

SB0940/423324/1

BY: Finance Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 940
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 2, strike “**Pharmacies – Prescription Drugs**” and substitute “**State Board of Pharmacy**”; in the same line, after “**Accessible**” insert “**Prescription**”; in the same line, after “**Labels**” insert “**, Bag Tags, and Medical Guides**”; in line 3, after “**Individuals**” insert “**- Regulations**”; strike beginning with “pharmacies” in line 4 down through “labels;” in line 8 and substitute “**the State Board of Pharmacy to adopt regulations necessary to ensure that individuals who are blind, visually impaired, or otherwise print disabled have appropriate access to prescription labels, bag tags, and medical guides in a certain manner; requiring the Board to give visually impaired individuals an opportunity to provide input regarding the content of the regulations;**”; and strike beginning with “pharmacies” in line 8 down through “drugs” in line 9 and substitute “**accessible prescription labels, bag tags, and medical guides for blind, visually impaired, and print disabled individuals**”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On pages 1 through 3, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 19 on page 1 through line 5 on page 3, inclusive, and substitute:

“(A) THE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS BLIND, VISUALLY IMPAIRED, OR OTHERWISE PRINT DISABLED HAS APPROPRIATE ACCESS TO PRESCRIPTION LABELS, BAG TAGS, AND MEDICAL GUIDES:

(1) AT NO ADDITIONAL COST TO THE INDIVIDUAL;

(2) IN A FORMAT OPTION THROUGH WHICH THE INFORMATION IS FULLY ACCESSIBLE TO THE INDIVIDUAL; AND

(3) WITHIN A TIME FRAME COMPARABLE TO THE TIME FRAME WITHIN WHICH THE INFORMATION IS PROVIDED TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS NOT VISUALLY IMPAIRED.

(B) IN ADOPTING REGULATIONS UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, THE BOARD SHALL GIVE VISUALLY IMPAIRED INDIVIDUALS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE INPUT REGARDING THE CONTENT OF THE REGULATIONS.

(C) THE REGULATIONS ADOPTED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL:

(1) FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE “PRESCRIPTION DRUG LABELS: ACTIONS NEEDED TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF BEST PRACTICES FOR ACCESSIBLE LABELS FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE BLIND OR VISUALLY IMPAIRED” REPORT THAT WAS ISSUED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE IN DECEMBER 2016; AND

(2) INCLUDE A METHOD FOR PROVIDING NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS THAT ACCESSIBLE PRESCRIPTION LABELS, BAG TAGS, AND MEDICAL GUIDES ARE AVAILABLE, INCLUDING NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF THE PRESCRIPTION LABELS, BAG TAGS, AND MEDICAL GUIDES IN AUDIO FORMAT.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the State Board of Pharmacy shall adopt the regulations required under § 12-505.1 of the Health Occupations Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, on or before January 1, 2025.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 1, 2023, the Maryland Department of Health shall submit to the General Assembly, in

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accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, a report on the potential process for and costs of implementing enhanced professional dispensing fees for providing accessible labels and compliant packaging to blind, visually impaired, and otherwise print disabled individuals.”.

On page 3, in line 6, strike “2.” and substitute “4.”.