Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 773 (Senator Augustine)
Finance Health

Health Occupations - Pharmacists - Vaccination Orders

This bill authorizes a pharmacist to order a vaccine for an individual who is at least three years old without the pharmacist administering the vaccine. If a vaccination is administered to an individual younger than 18, *or ordered for administration by an adult caregiver to an individual younger than 18,* the pharmacist must inform the patient and adult caregiver of the importance of visits with a pediatric primary care provider and refer the patient to a pediatric primary care provider when appropriate. The bill also makes conforming changes.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The change is technical in nature and does not directly affect governmental finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: A pharmacist may order and administer a vaccination to an individual who is at least age three if the vaccine is (1) an influenza vaccine; (2) a COVID-19 vaccine; or (3) used in response to a public health emergency. A pharmacist must have completed specified training, hold current cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification, complete specified continuing education as part of license renewal, comply with recordkeeping and reporting requirements, and inform child vaccination patients and their caregivers of the importance of well-child visits and refer them to a pediatric primary care provider when appropriate.

A pharmacist who has met the above noted requirements may administer to an individual who is at least age seven a vaccination that is (1) recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) or (2) approved or authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). For adults, a pharmacist may administer a vaccination that is recommended in CDC's *Health Information for International Travel*.

Chapter 738 of 2025 specifies that the ACIP recommendations governing the administration of vaccinations by pharmacists refer to federal statutes, rules, and guidance in effect either on December 31, 2024, or at a later date to account for any new vaccines recommended by ACIP after that date.

A pharmacist must report all vaccinations administered by the pharmacist to the ImmuNet Program and generally must document at least one effort to inform the patient's authorized prescriber or primary care provider of the administration of the vaccine.

Additional Comments: In September 2024, the FDA approved FluMist, a nasal spray for prevention of influenza, for administration by the self or a caregiver.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 1135 (Delegate Lopez, *et al.*) - Health.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Health; U.S. Food and Drug Administration; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 27, 2026
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