



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: House Bill 316 – Public Health - Schedule II
Controlled Dangerous Substances - Partial Filling of
Prescriptions

SPONSOR: Delegates Hill et al.

HEARING DATE: February 11, 2020

COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 316 – Public Health - Schedule II Controlled Dangerous Substances - Partial Filling of Prescriptions**, which allows pharmacists to partially fill a prescription for a Schedule II controlled dangerous substance (CDS II) in a quantity less than the prescribed amount on request of the patient. The bill also allows the pharmacist to fill the remaining portion of the prescription within 60 days and requires insurers to treat a prescription that is filled in parts as if it was filled at one time for the purpose of any cost-sharing.

CDS II are “drugs with a high potential for abuse, with use potentially leading to severe psychological or physical dependence,” such as methadone, oxycodone, fentanyl, Adderall, cocaine, and Ritalin.¹ HB316 may reduce the amount of unused CDS II in patients' homes by allowing adjustment to individual needs.

In 2019, over 100,000 individuals in Prince George's County received a prescription opioid². While this is a reduction from previous years, CDS II are still commonly prescribed. In Prince George's County, one in five high school students have taken a prescription pain medication without a doctor's prescription or differently from how it was prescribed³. This is potentially harmful to the developing adolescent brain and

¹ “Drug Scheduling,” U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Accessed on Feb. 10, 2019, at <https://www.dea.gov/drug-scheduling>

² Maryland Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, CRISP, Accessed on 2/10/2020

³ 2018 Maryland Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Q49

body and increases the risk of future drug abuse⁴. Allowing patients to partially fill prescriptions will enable them to obtain the correct dose as their needs evolve while helping to prevent opportunities for drug misuse.

HB316 may also improve access to care and compliance by reducing the difficulty patients encounter when filling a CDS II prescription. Pharmacies have limited inventory, especially for controlled dangerous substances and stock of controlled substances cannot be verified by phone. Currently, patients must physically bring hard copy prescriptions to check availability of medication. Allowing a partial fill with the amount of medication in stock at the pharmacy may expedite treatment and improve compliance. Partial fills are currently permissible under COMAR 10.19.03.08, but the remainder of the prescription must be filled within 72 hours or the order is void.⁵ HB316 expands this window to 60 days.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 316** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.

⁴ Volk, Katherine. "Rise in Prescription Drug Misuse and Abuse Impacting Teens," Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2014, Accessed on Feb. 10, 2019, at <https://www.samhsa.gov/homelessness-programs-resources/hpr-resources/teen-prescription-drug-misuse-abuse>

⁵ COMAR 10.19.03.08