



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

MARYLAND BOARD OF PHARMACY

Jennifer L. Hardesty, PharmD, FASCP, Board President — Deena Speights-Napata, MA, Executive Director

February 28, 2023

The Honorable Melony Griffith
Chair, Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: Senate Bill 372 – Health Occupations – Pharmacists – Administration of Vaccines

Dear Chairwoman Griffith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Pharmacy (Board) respectfully submits this letter of support with amendments for Senate Bill (SB) 372 – Health Occupations – Pharmacists – Administration of Vaccines.

SB 372 would permit pharmacist administration of a vaccine listed on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Recommended Immunization Schedule or approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to an individual who is at least three years old but under the age of eighteen. § 12-508(a)(1). SB 372 would require a pharmacist to complete a practical training program of at least twenty hours that is approved by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACIP), maintain a current certificate in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and complete two hours of ACIP-approved continuing education credits related to immunizations during each license renewal period. § 12-508(a)(1). SB 372 would require a pharmacist to comply with record-keeping requirements and provide information regarding the importance of well-child visits with a pediatric primary care provider. § 12-508(a)(1).

SB 372 would extend pharmacist administration of adult vaccines to those approved by the FDA. § 12-508(a)(2). SB 372 would remove the requirement that a pharmacist develop a vaccine-specific written protocol prior to administering a vaccine. § 12-508(a)(2).

SB 372 would remove the requirement to report administration of an influenza vaccine to a patient's primary care provider. § 12-508(a)(3).

The Board supports administration of vaccines by appropriately trained licensed pharmacists.

Proposed language would require a pharmacist to obtain “a current certificate in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation” prior to administering a vaccine to an individual who is at least three years old but under the age of eighteen, while current language requires the Board to adopt regulations that require a pharmacist to verify certification “in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation through in-person classroom instruction” for children and adults. *Compare* § 12-508(a)(1)(iii) with § 12-508(b)(2)(ii). The Board submits that “in-person classroom instruction” is more appropriate and robust than “a current certificate in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation.”

Based on the above-mentioned item, the Board recommends the following amendment:

Amendment 1

On page 2, strike lines 15 – 16 beginning with “THE PHARMACIST HAS” and ending with “RESUSCITATION.”

With the proposed amendment, the Board respectfully requests a favorable report on SB 372.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Deena Speights-Napata, MA, Executive Director at deena.speights-napata@maryland.gov or (410) 764-4753.

Sincerely,



Deena Speights-Napata, MA
Executive Director