



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

March 14, 2023

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

RE: Senate Bill 647 – Board Membership and Delegated Pharmacy Acts

Dear Chairwoman Griffith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Pharmacy (Board) respectfully submits this letter of support for Senate Bill (SB) 647 – Board Membership and Delegated Pharmacy Acts.

SB 647 would remove “administration of an influenza vaccination” from the list pharmacy acts that a pharmacist may not delegate to a pharmacy technician. § 12-101(g). This change would permit a pharmacist to delegate the mechanical administration of any CDC-approved or FDA-approved vaccine to an appropriately trained pharmacy technician. SB 647 would further clarify that a pharmacy technician is not permitted to engage in a decision-making task that requires the professional judgement of a pharmacist. §§ 12-101(g), 12-6B-06. This clarification would guarantee that a pharmacist is ultimately responsible for exercising discretion when providing care, completing ImmuNet reporting, obtaining informed consent, and adhering to all statutory and regulatory requirements.

SB 647 would expand membership of the Board to include one pharmacy technician. § 12-202. The expansion would provide an opportunity for an essential, but currently unrepresented, member of pharmacy operations to voice their concerns and provide their experiences within the Board.

SB 647 would authorize a pharmacist to delegate the performance of a suitable, non-drug handling task to a pharmacy technician who is not physically located in the prescription area of a pharmacy. § 12-307(e). A pharmacy technician would be permitted to engage in a variety of administrative functions, including prescription order entry, from an off-site location as a result of this change.

The Board has considered, developed, and approved the provisions presented in SB 647 over the last 12 months. It is the Board’s position that SB 647 will optimize pharmacy operations for supervising, responsible pharmacists, enhance work-life balance for pharmacy technicians, and increase options that Marylanders may access when seeking health care services.

The Board enthusiastically supports SB 647 and respectfully requests a favorable report.

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