



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

March 1, 2023

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill 693 – Board Membership and Delegated Pharmacy Acts

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Pharmacy (Board) respectfully submits this letter of support for House Bill (HB) 693 – Board Membership and Delegated Pharmacy Acts.

HB 693 would remove “administration of an influenza vaccination” from the list pharmacy acts that a licensed pharmacist may not delegate to a registered pharmacy technician. § 12-101(g). The effect of this change would be to permit a pharmacist to delegate the mechanical administration of any CDC-approved or FDA-approved vaccine to an appropriately trained pharmacy technician. HB 693 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.

HB 693 would expand membership of the Board to include one pharmacy technician. § 12-202. The effect of this change would be to provide an opportunity for an essential, but currently unrepresented, member of pharmacy operations to voice their concerns and provide their experiences at the Board level.

HB 693 would authorize a pharmacist to delegate a suitable, non-drug handling task to a pharmacy technician to perform from a location other than 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 debated and approved the provisions presented in HB 693 over the last 12 months. It is the Board’s position that HB 693 will optimize the pharmacy operations for the supervising, responsible pharmacist, enhance the work-life balance of some pharmacy

technicians, and increase the amount of available human capital resources that Marylanders may access while obtaining health care services at a pharmacy.

The Board enthusiastically supports HB 693 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Deena".

Deena Speights-Napata, MA
Executive Director