

SENATE BILL 562

J2, J1

6lr1784
CF HB 838

By: **Senator Gile**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Board of Pharmacy – Prescriber–Pharmacist Agreements – Treatment of**
3 **Opioid Use Disorders**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing licensed certified midwives to enter into therapy management
5 contracts; repealing a requirement that authorized prescribers submit
6 prescriber–pharmacist agreements to the health occupations board that regulates
7 the authorized prescriber; authorizing pharmacists, under certain circumstances, to
8 enter into prescriber–pharmacist agreements that authorize the pharmacist to treat
9 an opioid use disorder using controlled dangerous substances drug therapy;
10 requiring that a protocol that authorizes controlled dangerous substances drug
11 therapy require a pharmacist to request certain data from the Prescription Drug
12 Monitoring Program before initiating or modifying a controlled dangerous
substances therapy; and generally relating to prescriber–pharmacist agreements.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article - Health Occupations

Section 12-6A-01(a)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article – Health Occupations
15 Section 12-6A-01(b), 12-6A-03, 12-6A-04, and 12-6A-06
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article – Health Occupations**

12-6A-01.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) “Authorized prescriber” means a licensed physician, licensed
podiatrist, CERTIFIED MIDWIFE LICENSED UNDER TITLE 8, SUBTITLE 6D OF THIS ARTICLE,
or certified advanced practice nurse with prescriptive authority under § 8-508 of
this article.

21 12-6A-03.

22 (a) An authorized prescriber and a licensed pharmacist who wish to enter into
23 therapy management contracts shall have a prescriber–pharmacist agreement.

2 **REPRINT OF SENATE BILL 562 as amended by SB0562/693923/1 02/16/26 at 3:37 PM**

1 (b) [(1) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, an
2 authorized prescriber who has entered into a prescriber–pharmacist agreement shall
3 submit to the health occupations board that regulates the authorized prescriber a copy of
4 the prescriber–pharmacist agreement and any subsequent modifications made to the
5 prescriber–pharmacist agreement or the protocols specified in the prescriber–pharmacist
6 agreement.

7 (ii) A health occupations board may enter into an agreement with
8 the Board of Pharmacy that requires authorized prescribers regulated by the health
9 occupations board to submit to the Board of Pharmacy documentation that otherwise would
10 be required to be submitted to the health occupations board under subparagraph (i) of this
11 paragraph.

12 (2)] A licensed pharmacist who has entered into a prescriber–pharmacist
13 agreement shall submit to the Board of Pharmacy a copy of the prescriber–pharmacist
14 agreement and any subsequent modifications made to the prescriber–pharmacist
15 agreement or the protocols specified in the prescriber–pharmacist agreement.

16 12–6A–04.

17 **(A) [A] SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A pharmacist is**
18 **authorized to enter into a prescriber–pharmacist agreement if the pharmacist:**

19 (1) Is a licensed pharmacist;

20 (2) Has a Doctor of Pharmacy Degree or equivalent training as established
21 in regulations adopted under this subtitle;

22 (3) Is approved by the Board to enter into a prescriber–pharmacist
23 agreement with an authorized prescriber in accordance with this subtitle; and

24 (4) Meets the requirements that are established by regulations adopted
25 under this subtitle.

26 **(B) A PHARMACIST MAY ENTER INTO A PRESCRIBER–PHARMACIST**
27 **AGREEMENT THAT AUTHORIZES A PHARMACIST TO TREAT AN OPIOID USE DISORDER**
28 **USING CONTROLLED DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES DRUG THERAPY IF THE**
29 **PHARMACIST:**

30 (1) **INDIVIDUALLY REGISTERS WITH THE FEDERAL DRUG**
31 **ENFORCEMENT AGENCY;**

32 (2) **INDIVIDUALLY REGISTERS WITH THE OFFICE OF CONTROLLED**
33 **SUBSTANCES ADMINISTRATION;**

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1 (3) COMPLETES ANY APPLICABLE TRAINING REQUIRED BY FEDERAL
2 OR STATE LAWS; AND

3 (4) FOLLOWS A PROTOCOL THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF §
4 12-6A-06 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

5 12-6A-06.

6 (a) A protocol under this subtitle:

7 (1) May authorize:

8 (i) For protocols by a licensed physician and licensed pharmacist,
9 the initiation of drug therapy under written, disease-state specific protocols;

10 (ii) The modification, continuation, and discontinuation of drug
11 therapy under written, disease-state specific protocols;

12 (iii) The ordering of laboratory tests; and

13 (iv) Other patient care management measures related to monitoring
14 or improving the outcomes of drug or device therapy; and

15 (2) May not authorize acts that exceed the scope of practice of the parties
16 to the therapy management contract.

17 (b) A protocol shall prohibit the substitution of a chemically dissimilar drug
18 product by the pharmacist for the product prescribed by the authorized prescriber, unless
19 permitted in the therapy management contract.

20 (C) A PROTOCOL THAT AUTHORIZES CONTROLLED DANGEROUS
21 SUBSTANCES DRUG THERAPY SHALL REQUIRE THE PHARMACIST TO REQUEST
22 RELEVANT DATA FROM THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM BEFORE
23 INITIATING OR MODIFYING A CONTROLLED DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES DRUG
24 THERAPY.

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
26 1, 2026.