

# HOUSE BILL 591

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8lr0594  
CF 8lr2798

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By: **Delegate Platt**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2018

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Occupations – Physician Assistants – Dispensing of Drugs Under a**  
3 **Delegation Agreement**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the required contents of a certain delegation agreement in  
5 order for a primary supervising physician to delegate to a certain physician assistant  
6 the dispensing of certain substances, drugs, and devices; prohibiting a primary  
7 supervising physician from delegating the dispensing of certain controlled dangerous  
8 substances identified as Schedule I under a certain provision of law; authorizing a  
9 primary supervising physician to delegate the dispensing of certain controlled  
10 dangerous substances to a physician assistant who holds certain registrations;  
11 repealing a provision of law that authorizes a physician assistant to personally  
12 dispense a starter dose or drug samples under certain circumstances; authorizing a  
13 physicians assistant, under certain circumstances, to personally prepare and  
14 dispense a drug that the physicians assistant is authorized to prescribe under a  
15 delegation agreement; making conforming changes; altering a certain definition; and  
16 generally relating to the dispensing of drugs by physician assistants.

17 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
18 Article – Health Occupations  
19 Section 15–101(a)  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

22 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
23 Article – Health Occupations  
24 Section 15–101(j) and 15–302.2  
25 Annotated Code of Maryland  
26 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **Article – Health Occupations**

2 15–101.

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

4 (j) “Dispense” **OR “DISPENSING”** [means to dispense drug samples or starter  
5 dosages] **HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 12–101 OF THIS ARTICLE.**

6 15–302.2.

7 (a) A primary supervising physician may not delegate prescribing, dispensing,  
8 and administering of controlled dangerous substances, prescription drugs, or medical  
9 devices unless the primary supervising physician and physician assistant include in the  
10 delegation agreement:

11 (1) A notice of intent to delegate prescribing **AND, IF APPLICABLE,**  
12 **DISPENSING** of controlled dangerous substances, prescription drugs, or medical devices;

13 (2) An attestation that all prescribing **AND, IF APPLICABLE, DISPENSING**  
14 activities of the physician assistant will comply with applicable federal and State  
15 regulations;

16 (3) An attestation that all medical charts or records will contain a notation  
17 of any prescriptions written **OR DISPENSED** by a physician assistant in accordance with  
18 this section;

19 (4) An attestation that all prescriptions written **OR DISPENSED** under this  
20 section will include the physician assistant’s name and the supervising physician’s name,  
21 business address, and business telephone number legibly written or printed;

22 (5) An attestation that the physician assistant has:

23 (i) Passed the physician assistant national certification exam  
24 administered by the National Commission on the Certification of Physician Assistants  
25 within the previous 2 years; or

26 (ii) Successfully completed 8 category 1 hours of pharmacology  
27 education within the previous 2 years; and

28 (6) An attestation that the physician assistant has:

29 (i) A bachelor’s degree or its equivalent; or

30 (ii) Successfully completed 2 years of work experience as a physician

1 assistant.

2 (b) (1) A primary supervising physician may not delegate the prescribing **OR**  
3 **DISPENSING** of substances that are identified as Schedule I controlled dangerous  
4 substances under § 5–402 of the Criminal Law Article.

5 (2) A primary supervising physician may delegate the prescribing **OR**  
6 **DISPENSING** of substances that are identified as Schedules II through V controlled  
7 dangerous substances under § 5–402 of the Criminal Law Article, including legend drugs  
8 as defined under § 503(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

9 (3) A primary supervising physician may not delegate the prescribing **OR**  
10 **DISPENSING** of controlled dangerous substances to a physician assistant unless the  
11 physician assistant has a valid:

12 (i) State controlled dangerous substance registration; and

13 (ii) Federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) registration.

14 [(c) A physician assistant personally may dispense a starter dosage or dispense  
15 drug samples of any drug the physician assistant is authorized to prescribe to a patient of  
16 the physician assistant if:

17 (1) The starter dosage or drug sample complies with the labeling  
18 requirements of § 12–505 of this article;

19 (2) No charge is made for the starter dosage; and

20 (3) The physician assistant enters an appropriate record in the patient’s  
21 medical record.]

22 **(D) A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PERSONALLY MAY PREPARE AND DISPENSE A**  
23 **DRUG THAT THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT IS AUTHORIZED TO PRESCRIBE UNDER A**  
24 **DELEGATION AGREEMENT IF:**

25 **(1) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED UNDER § 12–102(G) OF THIS**  
26 **ARTICLE, THE SUPERVISING PHYSICIAN POSSESSES A DISPENSING PERMIT; AND**

27 **(2) THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT DISPENSES DRUGS ONLY WITHIN:**

28 **(I) THE SUPERVISING PHYSICIAN’S SCOPE OF PRACTICE; AND**

29 **(II) THE SCOPE OF THE DELEGATION AGREEMENT.**

30 [(d) **(E)** A physician assistant who personally dispenses a drug [sample or

1 starter dosage] in the course of treating a patient as authorized under subsection (c) **AND**  
2 **(D)** of this section shall comply with the requirements under Titles 12 and 14 of this article  
3 and applicable federal law and regulations.

4 **[(e)] (F)** Before a physician assistant may renew a license for an additional  
5 2-year term under § 15-307 of this subtitle, the physician assistant shall submit evidence  
6 to the Board of successful completion of 8 category 1 hours of pharmacology education  
7 within the previous 2 years.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
9 October 1, 2018.