

HOUSE BILL 1119

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By: ~~Delegate Shetty~~ **Delegates Shetty, Bagnall, Barron, Belcastro, Bhandari, Carr, Charles, Chisholm, Cullison, Hill, Johnson, Kelly, Kerr, Kipke, Krebs, R. Lewis, Morgan, Pena-Melnyk, Pendergrass, Reilly, Rosenberg, Saab, Sample-Hughes, Szeliga, and K. Young**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2020

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 10, 2020

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Pharmacists – Required Notification and Authorized Substitution – Lower-Cost**
3 **~~Brand Name~~ Drug or Device Product**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring a pharmacist, or the pharmacist's designee who is under
5 certain supervision, to inform a certain consumer of the availability of certain
6 therapeutically equivalent ~~brand name~~ drugs and the cost difference between the
7 therapeutically equivalent drug and a certain prescribed ~~brand name~~ drug; altering
8 the cost difference of which a pharmacist, or the pharmacist's designee is required to
9 inform a retail consumer under certain circumstances; applying a certain provision
10 of law governing the provision of certain information to a retail consumer regarding
11 the availability of certain drugs and products and certain cost differences to a
12 prescription that is written for a generic drug or an interchangeable biological
13 product; authorizing a pharmacist to substitute certain drugs and device products
14 for any originally prescribed drug or device product, rather than only for originally
15 prescribed brand name drug or device products; authorizing a pharmacist to
16 substitute a therapeutically equivalent brand name drug or device product for a
17 certain prescribed drug or device product under certain circumstances; requiring a
18 pharmacist to provide certain notice to a patient and make and keep a certain record
19 if a certain therapeutically equivalent brand name drug or device is substituted for
20 a certain drug or device product; requiring that a certain determination be based on
21 a consumer's prescription benefit and formulary under certain circumstances;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 making stylistic and conforming changes; and generally relating to pharmacists and
2 drugs and device products.

3 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
4 Article – Health Occupations
5 Section 12–504
6 Annotated Code of Maryland
7 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

10 Article – Health Occupations

11 12–504.

12 (a) In this section, “brand name” means the proprietary name a manufacturer
13 places on a drug or device product or its container.

14 (b) (1) Subject to the provisions of this subtitle, a pharmacist, or the
15 pharmacist’s designee, who is under the direct supervision of the pharmacist, shall inform
16 a retail consumer to the best of the pharmacist’s or the pharmacist’s designee’s knowledge
17 of the availability of a generically equivalent drug, **A THERAPEUTICALLY EQUIVALENT**
18 **BRAND NAME DRUG THAT IS LOWER IN COST THAN THE LOWEST COST ALTERNATIVE**
19 **TO THE ORIGINALLY PRESCRIBED BRAND-NAME GENERICALLY EQUIVALENT DRUG,**
20 or an interchangeable biological product and shall inform a retail consumer of the
21 approximate cost difference **OF THE LOWEST COST ALTERNATIVE** as compared to the
22 **ORIGINALLY PRESCRIBED brand-name** drug.

23 (2) The Board shall adopt procedures for:

24 (i) A consumer to notify the Board when a pharmacist fails to
25 provide the information required under paragraph (1) of this subsection; and

26 (ii) Advising a pharmacist to bring the pharmacist into compliance
27 with the requirements of paragraph (1) of this subsection.

28 (3) Paragraph (1) of this subsection does not apply:

29 (i) ~~To a prescription that is written for a generic drug or an~~
30 ~~interchangeable biological product;~~

31 ~~(ii)~~ When the authorized prescriber states expressly that the
32 prescription is to be dispensed only as directed;

1 ~~(iii)~~ **(II)** To a pharmacist who works in a pharmacy, whether centralized
2 or decentralized, which primarily serves public or private institutional recipients; or

3 ~~(iv)~~ **(III)** When the cost of the prescription is reimbursed by a third
4 party payer, including medical assistance.

5 (c) The Board shall maintain a link on its [Web site] **WEBSITE** to the current lists
6 of biological products determined by the United States Food and Drug Administration to
7 be interchangeable with a specific biological product.

8 (d) **(1)** A pharmacist may substitute a generically equivalent drug or device
9 product, **A THERAPEUTICALLY EQUIVALENT BRAND NAME DRUG OR DEVICE**
10 **PRODUCT TO THE ORIGINALLY PRESCRIBED GENERICALLY EQUIVALENT DRUG OR**
11 **DEVICE PRODUCT**, or an interchangeable biological product, of the same dosage form and
12 strength, for [any] ~~THE brand name~~ drug or device product **ORIGINALLY** prescribed, if:

13 ~~(1)~~ **(I)** The authorized prescriber does not state expressly that the
14 prescription is to be dispensed only as directed;

15 ~~(2)~~ **(II)** The substitution is:

16 ~~(1)~~ **1.** Recognized in the United States Food and Drug
17 Administration's current list of approved drug or device products with therapeutic
18 equivalence evaluations; or

19 ~~(ii)~~ **2.** An interchangeable biological product for the ~~brand name~~
20 drug or device product **ORIGINALLY** prescribed; and

21 ~~(3)~~ **(III)** The consumer is charged less for the substituted drug or device
22 or interchangeable biological product than the price of the **ORIGINALLY PRESCRIBED**
23 ~~brand name~~ drug or device.

24 **(2) IF A RETAIL CONSUMER IS USING PRESCRIPTION DRUG**
25 **COVERAGE FOR THE PRESCRIPTION, THE DETERMINATION OF WHETHER THE**
26 **CONSUMER WOULD BE CHARGED LESS FOR THE SUBSTITUTED DRUG OR DEVICE OR**
27 **INTERCHANGEABLE BIOLOGICAL PRODUCT SHALL BE BASED ON THE CONSUMER'S**
28 **PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT AND FORMULARY.**

29 (e) If a drug or device product or an interchangeable biological product is
30 substituted under this section, the pharmacist shall:

31 (1) Notify the patient in writing that the drug or device product or
32 interchangeable biological product dispensed is a generic equivalent of, **A BRAND NAME**
33 **DRUG OR DEVICE PRODUCT THAT IS THERAPEUTICALLY EQUIVALENT TO**, or is
34 interchangeable with the **ORIGINALLY** prescribed drug or device product; and

1 (2) Record on the prescription and keep a record of the name and
2 manufacturer of the substituted drug or device product or interchangeable biological
3 product.

4 (f) The Department may list any additional drug or device products that are
5 determined by the Department to meet requirements that are adequate to assure product
6 quality and therapeutic equivalence, after an opportunity for public comment as provided
7 in Title 10, Subtitle 1 of the State Government Article.

8 (g) The Department may disqualify a drug or device product or an
9 interchangeable biological product on the United States Food and Drug Administration's
10 current list from being used in Maryland as a substitute if the Department determines that
11 the drug or device or interchangeable biological product is therapeutically nonequivalent
12 or not interchangeable, respectively, or has a negative physical or biological effect on the
13 consumer of that drug or device product or interchangeable biological product:

14 (1) After providing an opportunity for public comment as provided in Title
15 10, Subtitle 1 of the State Government Article; or

16 (2) Prior to providing an opportunity for public comment, if the
17 Department believes that a particular generic drug or device product or interchangeable
18 biological product constitutes an imminent danger to the public health, safety or welfare,
19 and the Department:

20 (i) Provides an opportunity for public comment as provided in Title
21 10, Subtitle 1 of the State Government Article within 30 days of disqualifying the drug or
22 device product or interchangeable biological product; and

23 (ii) After providing an opportunity for public comment, determines
24 whether the drug or device product or interchangeable biological product should remain
25 disqualified.

26 (h) For a drug or device product or an interchangeable biological product that the
27 Department has disqualified from being used in Maryland as a substitute under subsection
28 (g) of this section, the Department shall provide an opportunity for public comment as
29 provided in Title 10, Subtitle 1 of the State Government Article before reinstating the drug
30 or device product or interchangeable biological product for use in Maryland as a substitute.

31 (i) A pharmacist who substitutes a drug or device product or an interchangeable
32 biological product in compliance with this section incurs no greater liability in filling the
33 prescription by dispensing the equivalent drug or device product or interchangeable
34 biological product than would be incurred in filling the prescription by dispensing the
35 **ORIGINALLY** prescribed ~~brand name~~ drug or device.

36 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
37 October 1, 2020.