

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 355 (Senators Augustine and Feldman)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health Occupations - Pharmacists - Administration of Vaccinations

This bill authorizes a licensed pharmacist to administer a vaccination listed in the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) recommended immunization schedule to an individual as young as 9 years old without a prescription. A vaccination must be administered under a written protocol or, for an influenza vaccination, in accordance with specified regulations. The bill repeals the requirement that a written protocol for a vaccination administered to an adult be vaccine specific. The bill also clarifies that a pharmacist is not required to inform an individual's primary care provider that an influenza vaccination has been administered to an individual 9 to 17 years old.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not directly affect State governmental finances or operations.

Local Effect: The bill does not directly affect local governmental finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: Meaningful.

Analysis

Current Law: An individual must be licensed by the State Board of Pharmacy to practice pharmacy in the State. The practice of pharmacy includes administering vaccinations under specified circumstances.

Per Chapters 559 and 560 of 2011, licensed pharmacists may administer an influenza vaccination to an individual who is at least nine years old, provided the vaccination is administered in accordance with regulations adopted by the State Board of Pharmacy in

consultation with the Maryland Department of Health (MDH). Chapters 255 and 256 of 2013 expanded the authority of pharmacists to administer vaccinations. For individuals 11 to 17 years old, a pharmacist may administer a vaccination listed in the CDC recommended immunization schedule if the individual has a prescription from an authorized prescriber. For adults, a pharmacist may administer a vaccination listed in CDC's recommended immunization schedule or *Health Information for International Travel* if the vaccination is administered under a written protocol that (1) is vaccine specific and (2) meets criteria established in regulation by MDH, in consultation with the boards of pharmacy, physicians, and nursing. A prescription is not required to administer these vaccinations to an individual age 18 or older.

Generally, a pharmacist must document at least one effort to inform the individual's authorized prescriber or primary care provider that a vaccination (other than an influenza vaccination) has been administered.

Background: CDC's 2019 recommended immunization schedule for persons 7 through 18 years old includes vaccinations for diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis (DTap); diphtheria and tetanus (DT); *haemophilus influenza* type B; hepatitis A; hepatitis B; human papillomavirus (HPV); influenza; measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR); meningococcal; pneumococcal; poliovirus; rotavirus; tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis (Tdap); tetanus and diphtheria (Td); and varicella.

Small Business Effect: Small business pharmacies benefit from additional reimbursement for administration of vaccinations. Conversely, other health care providers that currently administer vaccinations and may administer fewer vaccinations under the bill.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: HB 530 (Delegate Kelly, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

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an/ljm

Analysis by: Jennifer B. Chasse

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510