

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 1315

(Delegate Guzzone, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Finance

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**Vaccinations by Pharmacists and Health Insurance Coverage for Immunizations**

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This bill specifies that the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) that govern the administration of vaccinations by pharmacists refer to federal statutes, rules, and guidance in effect *either* on December 31, 2024, *or* at a later date to account for any new vaccines recommended by ACIP after that date. Specified insurance policies and nonprofit health service plans must include – in their minimum package of child wellness services required under current law – all visits for and costs of childhood and adolescent immunizations recommended by ACIP *as of December 31, 2024*. The Insurance Commissioner may adopt regulations necessary to carry out this requirement, consistent with federal statutes, rules, and guidance in effect *either* on December 31, 2024, *or* at a later date to account for any new vaccine’s recommended by ACIP after that date. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2025, and applies to all policies, contracts, and health benefit plans issued, delivered, or renewed in the State on or after January 1, 2026.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Minimal increase in special fund revenues for the Maryland Insurance Administration in FY 2026 only from the \$125 rate and form filing fee; review of forms can be handled with existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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## Analysis

### Current Law:

#### *Vaccinations by Pharmacists*

Under current law, a pharmacist may order and administer a vaccination to an individual who is at least age three if the vaccine is (1) an influenza vaccine; (2) a COVID-19 vaccine; or (3) used in response to a public health emergency. A pharmacist must have completed specified training, hold current cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification, complete specified continuing education as part of license renewal, comply with recordkeeping and reporting requirements, and inform child vaccination patients and their caregivers of the importance of well-child visits and refer them to a pediatric primary care provider when appropriate.

A pharmacist who has met the above noted requirements may administer to an individual who is at least age seven a vaccination that is (1) recommended by ACIP or (2) approved or authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. For adults, a pharmacist may administer a vaccination that is recommended in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's *Health Information for International Travel*.

Any vaccine administered by a pharmacist must be administered under a written protocol that (1) is vaccine specific and (2) meets criteria established in regulation by the Maryland Department of Health, in consultation with the boards of pharmacy, physicians, and nursing.

#### *Insurance Coverage for Child Wellness Services*

Under Maryland law, there are more than 50 mandated health insurance benefits that certain carriers must provide to their enrollees, including coverage for child wellness services. Specifically, certain insurance policies and nonprofit health service plans must include under the family member coverage a minimum package of child wellness services that are consistent with public health policy, professional standards, and scientific evidence of effectiveness. The minimum package of child wellness services must cover at least:

- all visits for and costs of childhood and adolescent immunizations recommended by ACIP of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;
- visits for the collection of adequate samples for hereditary and metabolic newborn screening and follow-up;
- universal hearing screening of newborns provided by a hospital before discharge;

- all visits for and costs of age-appropriate screening tests for tuberculosis, anemia, lead toxicity, hearing, and vision as determined by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP);
- all visits for obesity evaluation and management;
- all visits for and costs of developmental screening as recommended by AAP;
- a physical examination, developmental assessment, and parental anticipatory guidance services at specified visits; and
- any laboratory tests considered necessary by the physician as indicated by the specified services provided.

A policy or plan may not impose a deductible on this coverage. Each policy and certificate must contain a notice of the prohibition on a deductible.

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### **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced in the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Budget and Management; Maryland Department of Health; Maryland Insurance Administration; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 6, 2025  
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