



Board of Pharmacy

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary

Jennifer L. Hardesty, Board President – Deena Speights-Napata, Executive Director

February 1, 2022

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Senate Bill 62 – Pharmacists – Aids for the Cessation of Tobacco Product Use – Letter of Concern

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Pharmacy (the Board) is submitting this letter of concern for Senate Bill (SB) 62 – Pharmacists – Aids for the Cessation of Tobacco Product Use.

SB 62 would expand the definition of “practice pharmacy” to include “prescribing and dispensing nicotine replacement therapy medications approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as an aid for the cessation of the use of tobacco products.” The Board would be required to promulgate regulations establishing standard procedures that a pharmacist must follow to prescribe and dispense aids for the cessation of tobacco products.

After reviewing the text of SB 62, the Board has concern regarding the ambiguity of the scope. The Board is unclear as to whether the “tobacco replacement product” includes all smoking cessation products or only nicotine replacement products. The Board submits that SB 62 should be amended to define “tobacco replacement product.”

I hope this information is useful. If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me at deena.speights-napata@maryland.gov / (410) 764-4753.

Sincerely,

Deena Speights-Napata, MA
Executive Director

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.