

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 433

(Senator Pugh, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

Pharmacy Permit Holders - Signs for Reporting Incorrectly Filled Prescriptions

This bill requires all pharmacies in the State to post a sign that includes information regarding the process for resolving incorrectly filled prescriptions. The sign has to be conspicuously positioned and readable.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements would not affect governmental finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A person has to hold a pharmacy permit issued by the State Board of Pharmacy in order to establish or operate a pharmacy in Maryland. Drugs that are dispensed under a prescription have to include certain label information including • the name and address of the dispenser; • the serial number of the prescription; • the date of the prescription; • the name of the prescriber; and • if stated in the prescription, the name of the patient, directions for use, and cautionary statements.

If a pharmacy or nonresident pharmacy is operated in violation of statute, the board can suspend the pharmacy permit until compliance is met.

Regulations require a pharmacy permit holder to provide patients with information regarding the patient's role and responsibility in preventing medication errors.

Information provided to patients has to include, among other things, how to report a suspected medication error to the board, permit holder, pharmacist, health care facility, or health care provider.

Background: According to the board, there are 1,128 pharmacies and 336 nonresident pharmacies in Maryland.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 18, 2008
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